

# **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**20th March 2013**

## **REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mark Bullivant
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

Members are requested to review the general operation of the Committee since the new Standards Committee was established in July 2012.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Committee note the report and comment on any aspects of this, as appropriate.**

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

#### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the contents of this report.

#### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 There are no legal implications associated with the contents of this report.

#### **Service / Operational Implications**

#### **Background**

- 3.3 The new standards regime under the Localism Act 2011 came into force on 1st July 2012.
- 3.4 A copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference, as agreed by full Council, are attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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## **Review of Operation of the Committee**

- 3.5 The previous Standards Committee reviewed, on an annual basis, the general operation of the Committee. This report is before Members as it is anticipated that the new Committee will wish to do the same. Such a review would normally take place at the March meeting; that being the final meeting of the current municipal year and the last meeting prior to any changes in the district councillor membership of the Committee agreed after the Annual Meeting of Council in May.
- 3.6 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee is beneficial as it provides both Members and Officers with an opportunity to reflect on any key issues that may have arisen in relation to the Committee's practices and procedures over the preceding twelve months, and to consider whether any consequential changes are required in the light of such issues.
- 3.7 A separate report providing for a 12 month review of the new standards regime will be referred to the Committee for consideration in July.

## **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.8 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of behaviour among Members and its work is therefore key to ethical governance arrangements in place within the Council.
- 3.9 Under the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a responsibility to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members of the authority.
- 3.10 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee assists the Committee in being proactive in fulfilling its role in ethical governance under the local standards framework.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There are no risk implications associated with the contents of this report.

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Terms of Reference.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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7. **KEY**

Not applicable

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COMMITTEE**

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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Terms of Reference	<p>The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and any co-opted members of Council bodies;</li><li>b. assisting the Councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;</li><li>c. advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;</li><li>d. monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;</li><li>e. advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;</li><li>f. granting dispensations to Councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;</li><li>g. dealing with any report from the Monitoring Officer following an investigation into a complaint concerning the Members' Code of Conduct;</li><li>h. considering and determining allegations that a Councillor or co-opted Councillor may have failed to follow the Code of Conduct and where a breach of the Code is established impose sanctions as delegated by Full Council or make recommendations as to any sanctions to the appropriate person or body.</li><li>i. the exercise of g – h above in relation to the Parish Councils in the Council's area and the members of those parish Councils;</li><li>j. monitoring, and reviewing the operation of the Protocol on Member-Officer relations;</li><li>k. monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Protocol on Member-Member Relations.</li></ul>
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