

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14 DECEMBER 2006

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs. C Spencer
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Legal and Democratic Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update Members on the part of the recent White Paper entitled “Strong and Prosperous Communities” which refers to changes to the current standards regime.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The White Paper contains provisions relating to the standards regimes and the relevant section is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In summary, there are four principal changes:
- A more locally-based standards regime with “filtering” of complaints being carried out by Monitoring Officers rather than the Standards Board for England;
 - A more strategic role for the Standards Board;
 - A clearer, simpler and more proportionate code of conduct for members; and
 - A new code of Conduct for employees.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 Improvement – Reputation and Performance

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There is no risk associated with this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	Local “filtering” of complaints will result in an increase in workload for the Monitoring Officer and the need for robust internal arrangements
Governance/Performance Management	Ethical Governance and Statutory requirements
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	Constitution
Environmental	None
Equalities and Diversity	None

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Acting Chief Executive	No
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	N/a

Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	N/a
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. **APPENDICES**

Please list the appendices attached to the report as shown in the example below.

Appendix 1 Extract from the White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities”

12. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Government White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities”

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Claire Felton
E Mail: c.felton@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881429