

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**24TH MARCH 2010**

**REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton, Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY**

This report seeks Members' views on the general operation of the Standards Committee and its Standards Sub-Committees over the last twelve months.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that, subject to any specific issues highlighted by the Committee which might require specific follow-up action, the report be noted.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Members were first asked to review the general operation of the Standards Committee, for the preceding twelve months, at the meeting of the Committee on 20th May 2009.
- 3.2 It was agreed at that time that the report should feature annually in the Committee's Work Programme and that this would normally be considered by the Committee as its final meeting of the municipal year; prior to any change in membership of the district councillors on the Committee which might take place at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 23rd September 2009 the Committee revised the constitution of its sub-committees in the light of its previous request to the Monitoring Officer to develop a scheme for determining how substitutes should be selected. The Assessment and Review Sub-Committees were therefore restructured and fixed memberships introduced for these. It was agreed that the position should be reviewed once the new sub-committees had been in operation for six months.

3.4 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees is beneficial as it provides Members and officers with an opportunity to reflect on the work carried out over the last twelve months and to consider whether any changes are required to the practices or procedures currently in place to facilitate that work.

3.5 Members are asked to consider the operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees and to comment on any aspects of these accordingly.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

6.1 This report is linked to the Council's Improvement Objective, Priority - Customer Service.

6.2 Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees will assist Members and officers in identifying any areas which show good practice and/or which may require change. This shows that the Committee is conscious of the need to continually review, develop and, where appropriate, refine any systems which are not meeting the needs of Members, the Council and the public in relation to ethical governance under the local standards framework.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

None

**8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

None

**9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	None
Governance/Performance Management	Reviewing the general operation of the Standards Committee and its sub-committees on an annual basis will assist the Committee in being proactive in fulfilling its role in ethical governance under the local standards framework.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	None
Environmental	None

**12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	N/A
Executive Director (Services)	N/A
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	N/A

Corporate Procurement Team	No
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**13. WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards

**14. APPENDIX**

None

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda and minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 20th May 2009 and 23rd September 2009.

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