

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

24TH MARCH 2010

WORK PROGRAMME

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 sets out a Work Programme for the Standards Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that, subject to any amendments made to it by the Committee, the Work Programme be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Standards Committee established a Work Programme at its meeting on 7th February 2008.

3.2 A Work Programme is beneficial to the Committee for the following reasons:

- (a) to ensure the Committee is fulfilling its roles and functions in accordance with the Council's Constitution;
- (b) to enable officers to be proactive in supporting the Committee and for the Committee to be equally proactive in introducing change to ensure the Council is an ethical organisation, which promotes and maintains high standards of conduct of elected Members, and is an organisation which relates to the community and improves the service it provides; and
- (c) the rising profile of standards committees and, in particular, the changes brought about by the introduction of the local assessment of complaints of alleged breaches by district and parish councillors of the Members' Code of Conduct, under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

3.3 The Work Programme will appear as a regular item on Standards Committee agendas.

3.4 Officers will update the Work Programme, as appropriate, in between meetings and any amendments to this will be referred to the next meeting of the Committee for approval. Members of the Committee are welcome to contact officers, at any time, with suggested changes.

3.5 The Committee is asked to consider the Work Programme and to comment on this accordingly.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 The Work Programme is linked to the Council's Improvement Objective, Priority - Customer Service.

6.2 A Work Programme will assist in informing Members, officers and the public of the work being undertaken by the Committee in ensuring that the Council is an ethical organisation, which is proactively working towards improvement.

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	A Work Programme will assist the Committee in being proactive in fulfilling its role in ethical governance.
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

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

14. APPENDIX

Standards Committee Work Programme.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX

STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

[Note: Any items that it is proposed should be removed from the Work Programme are denoted by a strikethrough, with any new additions and/or rescheduled items appearing in bold italics.]

Meeting date	Item(s) for consideration
19th May 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman• Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10• <i>Appointment of members of the Standards Committee to its Sub-Committees</i>• Annual Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of the Members' Code of Conduct
14th July 2010	
22nd September 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Ombudsman Complaint Statistics (<i>final report for period ending 31st March 2010 and to include comparison with neighbouring authorities</i>)• Parish Councils' Training Programme - 6 month update
24th November 2010	
26th January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>2011 Review of terms of office of Parish Councils' Representatives on the Standards Committee</i> (<i>to be completed prior to June 2011 & CALC nominations to full Council - Min. 125/08 (i) of 29th April 2009 Council meeting refers. To go to January or March meeting.</i>)
23rd March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ombudsman Complaint Statistics (<i>interim update for period ending 31st September 2010</i>)• Parish Councils' Training Programme - 6 month update• Annual Review of the Operation of the Standards Committee• Calendar of meetings 2011/12

Date to be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Planning Services Code of Practice/ Planning Committee Procedure Rules/Public Speaking at Planning Committee Meetings guidance (Min. 125/08 (ii) of 29th April 2009 Council meeting refers - Annual Review to be added into Work Programme on completion of this Review) • 'Planning Ahead' training session (for members of the Standards Committee - as developed by Standards for England in partnership with the Planning Advisory Service) • Draft Procedure for Processing Applications for Dispensations (Min. 21/09 (c) of 22nd July 2009 Standards Committee meeting refers) • Annual Review of Council Protocols on Member-Officer and Member-Member Relations
<p>Note: All meetings of the Committee will include regular items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of previous meeting; • Monitoring Officer's Report; • Parish Councils' Representatives' Report; and • Work Programme. 	