



## **Standards Committee – Draft Work Programme 2010/11**

### **Report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

#### **1.0 Summary**

1.1 This report sets out an draft programme for the Standards Committee for the period 20010/11 for inclusion with the Committee’s Annual Report to Council.

#### **2.0 Work Programme 2010/11**

2.1 Under the Council’s constitution the Standards Committee is charged with a number of delegated functions.

2.2 Appendix A attached, sets out a draft work programme for the committee based on its responsibilities. It is spilt into two sections, specific areas of work and general areas. The general areas are matters likely to be dependent on the work undertaken by the committee on specific topics or reliant on other events, for example a by-election.

2.3 The work programme for the forthcoming year (20010/11) will inevitably be supplemented by matters arising from the Committee’s core duties and responsibilities which at this stage cannot be anticipated. For this reason, the work programme as set out should be regarded as indicative.

2.4 There is no requirement for the Committee to have a work programme however it is useful for officers to manage work loads and committee expectations for the next year if a programme of work is in place.

#### **3.0 Legal Implications**

3.1 To ensure that the legal requirements of the Code of Conduct are met alongside members being effective in their roles as elected representatives.

3.2 Sections 53 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (“the Act”) requires the Council to establish a Standards Committee.

3.2 Sections 53 to 55 of the Act requires the Council to establish Standards Sub-Committees for the assessment and review of assessments of complaints of breaches of the Members Code of Conduct.

3.3 Section 54 of the Act provides that the general functions of the Standards Committee shall be:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the authority, and
- (b) assisting members and co-opted members of the authority to observe the authority's code of conduct.

3.4 Section 54 of the Act provides that the Standards Committee shall have the following specific functions: be:

- (a) advising the authority on the adoption or revision of a code of conduct,
- (b) monitoring the operation of the authority's code of conduct, and
- (c) advising, training or arranging to train members and co-opted members of the authority on matters relating to the authority's code of conduct.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications from this Work Programme but items on the work programme could involve sundry expenditure during the year.

#### **5.0 Recommendations**

Standards Committee is recommended to:-

5.1 Comment on the draft work programme which will be included in the Annual Report to Council (for consideration elsewhere on the agenda)

#### **Local Government Act 1972**

##### **Background papers:**

Standards Committee Work Programme 2008/09

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## Schedule of Other Matters

### **1.0 Council Target**

1.1 No specific Council target

### **2.0 Specific Targets**

2.1 None

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Supporting elected and co-opted members giving equal information to all.

### **5.0 Community Safety issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 The Code of Conduct and advice issued by the Committee support and underpin councillors and co-opted members ensuring that the reputation of the council is open and honest building confidence in the decision making process.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Matter considered

### **9.0 Risk assessment**

9.1 Matter considered, links with 7.0 above.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **12.0 Partnership working**

12.1 The Monitoring Officer also has jurisdiction over the Parish Councillors therefore advice or guidance has to apply to the two Parish Councils too.