



**Ward: All**

## **Preparing for the District Elections May 2010 - Candidates**

### **Report by the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer**

#### **1.0 Summary**

1.1 This report asks Members to consider actions to be taken prior to the District Elections of May 2010

#### **2.0 Background**

2.1 Candidates standing for election face a range of requirements under the Code of Conduct if successful. The important issue for this Committee is to consider the timing and amount of information to be given regarding the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests to electoral candidates.

2.2 In previous years, once nominations have closed, Democratic Services have provided all candidates with a copy of the Code of Conduct, a Register of Interests form and a covering letter setting out the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Members. This has been provided for all candidates including current Members and previous Members standing for election again.

2.3 Upon election successful candidates will have had time to prepare and ask questions regarding the Code of Conduct and Register of Interest and will have been provided with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with a basic knowledge of the Code prior to training provided by the Monitoring Officer after election.

2.4 A copy of the last letter and pack is attached as annex 1.

#### **3.0 Proposals**

3.1 The Committee is asked to review the pack and offer the Monitoring Officer guidance as to any other information that should be made available to candidates.

#### **4.0 Legal**

4.1 Although there is no requirement for candidates to have information prior to election. 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.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 The financial expenditure involved amounts to sundry expenses of postage and printing are likely to be in the region of £50.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

6.2 The Committee is recommended to endorse current working practice and advise the Monitoring Officer on the form and content of the information pack sent to election candidates prior to District elections of May 2010.

## **Local Government Act 1972**

### **Background Papers:**

n/a

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## **Schedule of Other Matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Pre election pack provides information to all potential Councillors

### **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 Report is a consultation exercise

### **9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 Potential elected Members will be aware of the requirements of their office prior to election.

### **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 Matter considered and no issues identified