

**Report by the Head of Corporate & Legal Services
Annual Report**

1.0 Summary

1.1 To agree an annual report for submission to Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To recommend to Council the Annual Report set out in Annex 1.

3.0. Background

3.1 The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 alters the role of the Standards Board for England substantially, making it more of a supervisory and advisory body, rather than being the principal body for handling complaints about Member conduct.

3.4 As part of the supervisory role it will receive an annual report from Council on the performance of their Standards Committee.

3.5 The first report will be required in 2009, but the Monitoring Officer suggests that it would be beneficial to present a report this year as a practice and to bring to the attention of the Council the work of the Committee.

3.6 A draft report is set out in Annex 1 for consideration by the Committee.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007

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Appendix

(To be completed on all reports. If no issues are identified under a heading then it should read "Matter considered and no issues identified.")

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Matter considered and no issues identified, although the conduct of Members does have an impact on the Council's priorities.

2.0 Specific Targets

2.1 (A) Matter considered and none identified
(B) Matter considered and none identified

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

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 Financial Implications

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The legal position is addressed in the body of the report.

9.0 Consultations

9.1 (A) Matter considered and no issues identified
(B) Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Risk assessment

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Health & Safety Issues

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 Procurement Strategy

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

13.0 Partnership working

13.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

1. This is the first annual report of the Standards Committee for Adur District Council, which also has responsibility for Lancing and Sompting Parish Councils.
2. The Committee has not had any matters referred to it by the Standards Board for local adjudication.
3. The Monitoring Officer has not had any matters referred to him for local investigations.
4. The Monitoring Officer has been directed by an Ethical Standards Officer to carry out training for Members of Lancing Parish Council. That has been completed.
5. The Committee considered and recommended to Council a new statutory Code of Conduct for Members, with a few minor alterations from the minimum required by statute. Those amendments were to help make the Code clearer. This was adopted by the Council on 23rd July, 2007.
6. The Committee has recommended to Council the adoption of additional guidance on Gifts and Hospitality and Confidential Information, which is intended to assist the Members of the Council to comply with the Code.
7. The Committee recommended to Council a protocol for the role of the Monitoring Officer, which was adopted by Council on 18th February, 2008.
8. The Committee has considered various requirements of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 and has recommended to Council amendments to the Constitution in relation to non-elected Members of the Committee being the Chairperson and adding to the Committee's terms of reference the role of determining the applications, by officers, for and the giving of directions in relation to exemptions in respect of the politically restricted posts requirements under section 3, Local Government & Housing Act, 1989. The Committee has also agree to establish a sub-committee to make local assessments of complaints and to determine them.
9. The Committee looks forward with some concern at the requirement for all complaints against Members to be filtered and where appropriate investigated and adjudicated on locally. This will have a resource implication for the Council, but it is not possible at this stage to quantify it.