

Report of the Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) to the meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on 5 March 2009.

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Subject:

Improving the Ethical Governance Framework

Summary statement:

On 5 February 2009 Standards Committee considered 2 reports on the Ethical Governance arrangements and the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment in the context of looking at how City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's Standards Committee could improve the Ethical Governance Framework to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained.

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Improvement Area:



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1. **Summary**

On 5 February 2009 Standards Committee considered 2 reports on the Ethical Governance arrangements and the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment in the context of looking at how City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's Standards Committee could improve the Ethical Governance Framework to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 Standards Committee is aware that Corporate Governance is the framework of Accountability to users, stakeholders and the wider community within which organisations take decisions and lead and control their functions to achieve their objectives. The Standards Committee considered reports on 5 February 2009 which set out how the effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements is assessed and recognising the impact it has on how well an organisation meets its aims.
- 2.2 At the meeting on 5 February 2009 Standards Committee members discussed in detail issues arising out of the reports and identified areas for further consideration in terms of ensuring that the Ethical Governance Framework was robust and that procedures were in place to ensure continuous improvement.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer was asked to consider the issues raised and present a further report setting out the issues and concerns and proposed actions to address those concerns.
- 2.4 At Appendix 1 the Monitoring Officer has prepared a table setting out the issues raised, the specific concerns and proposed actions. Standards Committee is asked to consider the report and the actions proposed and agree those actions to be included in the work programme for the next municipal year. Standards Committee will be asked to prioritise those actions to enable the work programme to be drafted to ensure identified actions are dealt with in a programmed manner.

3. **Other considerations**

- 3.1 Standards Committee are asked to consider the attached appendix and specifically discuss ways in which the Standards Committee can address the concerns raised in the meeting and identify those which should take priority.

4. **Financial and resource appraisal**

- 4.1 The issues raised in this report do not have any direct financial consequences. The prioritisation discussion will need to have regard to the available resources to undertake the actions identified.

5. **Legal appraisal**

- 5.1 The Committee is under an obligation to have regard to the ethical conduct of the organisation to ensure it meets the required standards of conduct. The issues identified in the Appendix and actions to address those issues ought to ensure that ethical standards are maintained and improved.

6. **Other implications**

6.1 There are no equal rights, sustainability, community safety, human rights act, trade union implications arising from this report.

7. **Not for publication documents**

7.1 None

8. **Recommendations**

8.1 The Standards Committee consider the attached Appendix and the actions identified therein and agree those to be undertaken by the Standards Committee.

8.2 The Standards Committee is asked to prioritise the agreed actions for inclusion in the work programme 2009/10.

8.3 Reason for the recommendations - to ensure there are appropriate and improving ethical governance arrangements within the Council.

9. **Appendices**

9.1 Table