

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:

Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09

Summary statement:

The Standards Committee is invited to consider the draft Annual Report attached at Appendix 1 and comment on its contents.

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2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
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Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



1. Summary

1.1 The Standards Committee is invited to consider the draft Annual Report attached at Appendix 1 and comment on its contents.

2. Background

2.1 It is good practice for the Standards Committee to produce an Annual Report to review the work carried out by the Committee and highlight the challenges for the next municipal year.

2.2 The format of the Report sets out the membership of the Committee, gives details of the work programme, the Committee's roles and responsibilities and then reviews the work undertaken by the Committee in this municipal year.

2.3 The Report also contains details of the local assessment of complaints and of the complaints received and dealt with under the new procedure. Finally the report sets out details of the training undertaken by members and the attendance at the Standards Board for England Conference.

2.4 The Report concludes by setting out some of the challenges facing the Committee in the next municipal year.

3. Other considerations

3.1 The Annual Report enables members and offices to be informed of the Committee's role and of its inputs and outputs. It is one method of raising the profile of the Standards Committee which the Committee will understand is an important issue. The Annual Report makes a contribution to the Corporate Governance arrangements of the Council by providing an opportunity to review the work undertaken by the Standards Committee to support the Ethical Governance Framework.

4. Financial and resource appraisal

4.1 The issues raised in the Annual report do not have any direct financial consequences.

5. Legal appraisal

5.1 It is important that the Council has regard to the Ethical Framework within which it operates to ensure high standards of conduct are maintained. The Standards Committee Annual Report contributes to that Review of the Ethical Framework.

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 Standards Committee are asked to consider the attached draft Annual Report and make any suggestions for amendment or additions as appropriate.
- 8.2 Reasons for the recommendation – to ensure an accurate and robust annual report is produced to review the work of the Standards Committee.

9. **Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2008/09.

10. **Background documents**

- 10.1 None

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