

Report of the Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) to the meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on 20 May 2010.

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Subject:

The highly effective Standards Committee.

Summary statement:

This report collates the feedback from the discussion on what constitutes a highly effective Standards Committee at the Standards Committee meeting on the 4 March 2010.

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Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



1. Summary

- 1.1 This report collates the feedback from the discussion on what constitutes a highly effective Standards Committee at the Standards Committee meeting on the 4 March 2010

2. Background

- 2.1 On 4 March 2010 Standards Committee members were invited to discuss what constitutes a highly effective Standards Committee and what actions/measures can be put in place to ensure that outcomes are achieved.
- 2.2 During that discussion Standards Committee members were asked to consider the quiz which formed part of this item at the Standards for England Annual Assembly of Standards Committee in October 2009 and to complete the feedback sheet circulated at the Annual Assembly where members were invited to identify things that could be improved, barriers that may prevent improvement and how barriers might be overcome to improve the effectiveness of Standards Committee.
- 2.3 During the discussion Standards Committee members recognised issues in relation to the quiz which could be addressed as part of the Standards Committee work programme. These issues included continued work with Parish Councils and Parish Council Clerks, improving the training offered to Councillors on the Code of Conduct and ensuring that members Register of Interests and Register of Gifts and Hospitality were made available on the website.
- 2.4 In addition it was recognised that development of the Communication Strategy is key to promoting the work of the Standards Committee and a better circulation of the information in the Annual Report would raise the profile of Standards Committee.
- 2.5 The responses to the feedback form are collated in Appendix 1 to this report for consideration by the committee as requested at the meeting on the 4 March 2010.

3. Financial and resource appraisal

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the Report. Any actions ought to be undertaken within budget.

4. Legal appraisal

- 4.1 City Solicitor is of the opinion that developing a highly effective Standards Committee is important in terms of meeting the Standards Committee role in the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct both within the District Council and in Town and Parish Councils as set out in the Councils Constitution.

5. Other Implications

5.1 There are no Equal Rights, Sustainability, Community Safety, Human Rights Act, Trade Union implications arising from this report.

6. Not for Publication documents

6.1 None.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Standards Committee are asked to consider the issues raised at the discussion on the 4 March 2010 and the feedback information contained in Appendix 1 and agree any further actions to be included in the work programme for the municipal year 2010/11.

8. Reason for Recommendation

8.1 To ensure that the role of the Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct as set out in the Councils Constitution is met.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Comment from feedback sheets