

Committee: STANDARDS

Agenda Item

Date: 22 March 2010

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Title: COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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Item for decision

Summary

1. At its meeting on 21 September 2009 members adopted a work programme for the remainder of the council year. This programme will have been achieved by the conclusion of this meeting.

Recommendations

2. That members adopt a work programme for the forthcoming council year.

Background Papers

3. Standards for England website: <http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/>

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	NONE.
Community Safety	NONE.
Equalities	NONE.
Finance	Any work undertaken by the committee must be within existing financial restraints. There is no budget for the Standards Committee as such.
Health and Safety	NONE.
Human Rights	NONE.
Legal implications	NONE.
Sustainability	NONE.
Ward-specific impacts	NONE.
Workforce/Workplace	NONE.

Situation

5. In order to maintain its profile it is important that the Standards Committee has an annual work programme to follow. Last year's programme has now been concluded and members therefore need to determine what areas of work they wish to focus on in the coming 12 months.
6. At its meeting in January 2010 the committee determined to embark upon a series of visits to town and parish councils. Members should decide whether they wish the outcome of these visits to be reported back on an ad hoc basis at each meeting of this committee or whether they would prefer a more structured report approach in terms of feedback.
7. As a matter of good practice the committee should prepare an annual report for Full Council. This should clearly be done early in the council year.
8. One of the statutory duties of the committee is to monitor the observance of the Code of Conduct. That function is required to be performed both with regard to the district council and with regard to the town and parishes within the district. Members may wish to consider how this can be achieved.
9. Although there is no suggestion that any of the town or parish representatives should be replaced on the committee, it may be desirable to consider the manner in which such representatives are appointed. There are a number of different methods of recruitment and members may wish to examine these, not necessarily with a view to change but with a view to being aware of alternative ways of making an appointment.
10. At present the council is consulting on a possible change of governance arrangements with effect from 2011 to an executive style of administration. Members may wish to consider the implications of that in general and the implications for the Standards Committee in particular.
11. The Licensing Act 2003 has recently been amended to permit members to make representations in their own right with regard to licences and licensing applications. Members may wish to consider if they should offer guidance to members of the council in this respect.
12. There may be other areas of work which members would wish to be examined during the course of the next council year.

Risk Analysis

13.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The committee lacks focus and has insufficient work.	2, even without a work programme the committee	4, the council would suffer reputational damage if its	Members adopt a robust work programme.

	would have a function in assessing complaints and considering reports into allegations passed for investigation.	Standards Committee was not proactive.	
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- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.