

Committee: STANDARDS

Agenda Item

Date: 22 November 2010

7

Title: ASSISTANCE TO PARISHES

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Item for decision

Summary

1. On the 25 January 2010 the committee considered a report regarding offering assistance to town and parish councils with regard to observing the Code of Conduct. As a result of that report, members resolved to commence a pilot of visits to town and parish council meetings to make a brief presentation as to the role of Standards Committees and to report back to the committee. This report is to give members the opportunity of considering how this pilot has fared and whether further visits should be arranged.

Recommendations

2. That members determine whether the committee should continue to be proactive in its support to town and parish councils.

Financial Implications

3. None.

Background Papers

4. None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Health and Safety	None.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	None.

Workforce/Workplace	None.
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Situation

6. Since the meeting in January of this year, various members have attended meetings of town and parish councils where they have given a short presentation on the functions of the Standards Committee and have observed proceedings. Members are invited to share their experiences of attending such meetings with the whole committee.
7. Members will have considered my report on the agenda regarding the likely future of Standards Committees and the potential abolition of the Code of Conduct so far as members of town and parish councils are concerned.
8. Members are asked to consider in the light of their experiences of attending meetings of town and parish councils and the government proposals what assistance they wish to offer to the towns and parishes.

Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Parish councils do not receive adequate training to enable them to observe the Code of Conduct.	3, save for circumstances where the Standards Committee has recommended training, the take up of training by town and parish councillors has been limited.	Whilst the Code of Conduct remains in place – 3, as there may be reputational damage suffered by this council if it is seen not to be carrying out its statutory functions with regard to town and parishes. If the code of Conduct is abolished – 1, as the district council will cease to perform any functions regarding town and parish councils.	So far as the Code remains to be observed, members consider continuing their support to town and parish councils.

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.