

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Standards Committee

Date of Meeting: 8 June 2011

Report Title: ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL
2010/11

Report By: Standards Committee

Purpose of Report

To recommend a draft report to Council on the activities of Standards Committee for municipal year 2010/11

Recommendation(s)

1. That Members consider the report and agree it for report to Council

Reasons for Recommendations

To keep Council advised on the work of Standards Committee

Background

Standards Committee's Annual Report to Council

1. High standards in public life and the principles supporting the Code of Conduct are important to public confidence and so it is appropriate that this area of the Council's work is reported to the whole Council on a regular basis. This will be the Committee's fourth report to Council.

Membership

2. Standards Committee has a membership of 8, of whom 6 are elected members and 2 are independent members.
3. By law Standards Committee and its sub-committees have to be chaired by an independent member and there is a minimum of one quarter of the membership which is required to be independent. The independent members during the year were Sue Fellows and Bob Spiring, who were chair and vice-chair respectively. The elected members sitting on Standards Committee in the last municipal year were Councillors Daniel, Finch, Gurney, Lock, Roberts, and Westley.
4. The Committee is politically balanced, though not required to be by law.

Meetings

5. There are 4 programmed formal meetings of Standards Committee during the year. During the year Standards Committee met for only 1 of the 4 programmed meetings, the remaining being cancelled for want of business. At their June 2010 meeting the Committee agreed its annual report to Council.
6. The lack of business for the Committee reflects the diminishing role of Standards for England following the election of the Coalition Government and its stated policy of abolition of the standards regime and the later publication of the Localism Bill.

Complaints

7. The Committee received no complaints during the 2010/2011 municipal year. This is very positive and will also account for the lack of business for Standards Committee.

Training

8. The Committee has responsibility for ensuring that training is provided to members on the Code of Conduct and other related issues. A good understanding of the Code of Conduct is essential if a member is to comply with its requirements.
9. There were Borough Elections in May 2010 and there was induction training for new members on the Council's Constitution including the Code of Conduct.

10. A further training session on Declarations of Interest was held during the year when members were able to work through different scenarios applying the Code.
11. There was also training on predisposition and predetermination through training for members sitting on Planning, Licensing and Environment and Safety Committees.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No

Supporting Documents

None

Officer to Contact

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