

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Standards Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2009

Report Title: STANDARDS COMMITTEE WEB PAGE

Report By: Jayne Butters
Borough Solicitor

Purpose of Report

To recommend to members that the Committee takes a page on the Council's website.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Committee instructs the Monitoring Officer to draw up a web page giving publicity to the functions of the Standards Committee in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and a representative of the two political groups on the Committee.**

Reasons for Recommendations

To raise the profile of the Committee and the Code of Conduct.

Background

Standards Committee Webpage

1. One of the main functions of Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for members.
2. The Ethical Framework contained in Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 was the Government's response to the findings of the Graham Committee on Standards in Public Life. It is important to public confidence in elected members, independent and co-opted members, that high standards are expected of them and that such standards are enforceable and enforced.
3. Whilst there is information on the Council's website about the Committee, the information is held in different places and it would be beneficial to have a dedicated webpage which explains the functions of the Committee, its membership and, in particular, its role of assessing, investigating and determining complaints against members. The page would have links to the Code of Conduct, Committee reports and minutes and guidance on complaints with downloadable forms. There could also be links to members' register of interests and to the members' allowances scheme and expenses claims for the previous financial year. Recent events have had the unfortunate effect of reducing public confidence and increased openness on such matters might help to restore that confidence.
4. It is suggested that the Committee instructs the Borough Solicitor to draft a suitable page for the Council's website in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and a representative of the two political groups on the Committee.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

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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