

<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
9 June 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

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REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>
1. <i>That the Committee members note the contents of this report</i>

**CONTENTS OF REPORT**

1. This report contains the following items for consideration:
  - Update on minutes of last meeting;
  - Report on any complaints made and progress on any investigations;
  - Note items of interest issuing from Standards for England, Strategic Governance Board etc;
  - Progress against the work programme;
  - Planning Committee voting analysis.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

2. **Update on minutes of last meeting**
  - 2.1 *Induction of new members:* Following the local elections in May there were three new members appointed to the Council, one of which had formerly been a Councillor. The induction programme was therefore directed to these three members rather than being a training programme for the entire membership of the Council. The training did include Code of Conduct issues. Members of the Planning Committee also receive specific training in relation to their work on that Committee.
  - 2.2 *Training for members of the Standards Committee:* In discussing the induction of new members at the last meeting of the Standards Committee it was noted by several members that they had not taken part in any induction process. It is proposed therefore that the next provisional meeting of the Standards Committee which is not required to sit to hear complaints under the Code be replaced by an induction and training session for members of the Committee.
3. **Complaints**
  - 3.1 The regular update on any complaints received or matters referred for investigation is attached at appendix 1.

#### **4. Items of interest**

- 4.1 *Planning Committee voting analysis:* The Planning Committee voting analysis is attached at appendix 2
- 4.2 *New Government information:* The Government has announced in its manifesto entitled “The coalition: our plans for Government” that it intends to abolish the Standards Board regime. A “Decentralisation and Localism” bill was announced during the Queen’s speech on 25 May which re-iterated the intention to abolish the Standards Board regime. No further detail is yet available on when this is likely to take place or whether this means that the Code of Conduct will survive the abolition of the Standards Board. Further information will be provided to the Committee as this becomes available.
- 4.3 *Annual Governance Statement* has been prepared in draft and issued for initial consideration by the Audit Committee on the 7 June. The Internal Audit team welcome any comments from the Standards Committee on the member governance issues within the Statement which will be collated with other comments before final consideration by the Audit Committee at the end of June. The Annual Governance Statement is attached at appendix 3.
- 4.4 *Standards for England annual return:* There is a statutory requirement to complete an annual return to the Standards for England on the work of the Standards Committee. A copy of the Council’s annual return is attached at appendix 4.

#### **5. Work programme**

- 5.1 The work programme is attached at appendix 5.

#### **CONSULTATION**

6. A copy of this report is sent to each parish council and they are invited to comment upon the contents. Any response from the parishes will be verbally reported to the Committee.

#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Complaint monitoring report  
Appendix 2: Planning Committee voting analysis  
Appendix 3: Annual Governance Statement  
Appendix 4: Annual return  
Appendix 5: Work programme

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.