

STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM 4
9 September 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

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REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : Deputy Monitoring Officer
<p>That Committee Members:</p> <p>(1) Note and discuss the contents of this Report; and (2) Formulate any further recommendations as appropriate.</p>

1. THE FORMAT OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report contains the following item for consideration:

- The majority agreement by Full Council on 26th July 2010 to move a motion and carry out actions and recommendations in relation to the future of the Standards Committee.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 At a Full Council Meeting on Monday 26th July 2010, Councillor Todd introduced the Annual Report of the Standards Committee on behalf of the Independent Chairman. The Report contained three Recommendations namely that Council:

- (1) notes the work carried out by the Standards Committee and endorses and supports the priorities for the coming year.
- (2) agrees to extend the maximum term of office to be served by any independent member to 3 successive terms; and
- (3) agrees to extend the membership of the Standards Committee to include a further parish council substitute member and delegates authority to the Standards Committee to appoint to that position upon nomination by the Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

2.2 There were no movers of the recommendations in the Annual Report but instead Councillor Sanford moved recommendations that Council:

- (1) Notes the work carried out by the Standards Committee;
- (2) Agrees with Government's intention to abolish the current Standards Board Regime; and
- (3) Agrees that the Standards Committee reduces its number of meetings so that it only meets to fulfil its statutory responsibilities until further legislation is passed.

2.3 Councillor Shaheed seconded the motion and following debate, a vote was taken and the recommendations from Councillor Sandford were carried, 31 in favour, 1 against and 6 abstentions.

- 2.4 The current statutory responsibilities of the Standards Committee are set out in the Local Government Act 2000 (“LGA 2000”). The following is of note.
- 2.4.1 Section 54(1) of the LGA 2000 sets out the general duties of the Standards Committee as follows:
- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the authority; and
 - (b) assisting members and co-opted members of the authority to observe the authority’s code of conduct.
- 2.4.2 Section 54(2) of the LGA 2000 sets out the specific duties of the Standards Committee as follows:
- (a) monitoring the operation of the authority’s code of conduct;
 - (b) advising, training or arranging to train members and co-opted members of the authority on matters relating to the authority’s code of conduct.
- 2.5 Members of the Standards Committee are invited to note and discuss the agreed recommendations of Full Council and having regard Section 54 of the LGA 2000 consider how to proceed.

3 IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial or legal implications, other than those contained within the body of the report.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 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.

5 APPENDICES

Transcript from Council meeting of 26 July 2010.

6 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.