

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 10th DECEMBER 2009

UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

To update the Standards Committee with regard to progress in relation to the work programme which has been agreed for the current municipal year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the contents of the report are noted.

3. SUMMARY

The Standards Committee has agreed a work programme for the current municipal year. Some of the work undertaken has been in accordance with the agreed completion date. Other work is currently in progress and has yet to be completed.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee – 21 April 2009 (ST-38)

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

5.1.1 On 21 April 2010 this Committee approved a work programme for the municipal year 2009/10. A number of the matters set out in the work plan have been addressed. Attached at Appendix 1 is a copy of the work programme together with details of current progress. In some cases the work set out has been completed. However, in other cases, completion of the work has been delayed and is therefore due to be completed during the next calendar year. This is due to some of the work set out in the programme requiring significant resources. In some cases those resources have been diverted away from this work by other ethical standards matters such as dealing with referral and review sub committees and co-ordinating local investigations.

5.1.2A further report will be provided to this Committee on the conclusion of the current municipal year to confirm the work that has been undertaken and to determine the work that needs to be undertaken for the following municipal year.

5.2 Equality and Diversity

All processes and procedures undertaken by the Standards Committee that are included in the work programme need to comply with the appropriate Equality and Diversity legislation, regulations and guidance.

5.3 Environmental Impact

No implications

5.4 Legal Comment

There is no legal requirement for the Standards Committee to have a work programme in place but it does represent good practice to do so.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

Setting out a work programme for the Committee in relation to its role concerning ethical governance for the Authority assist the Council in ensuring that it is an efficient effective and customer focussed Council that delivers value for money for the community.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

The risks associated with producing the annual work programme for the Standards Committee have been assessed. The opportunities provided by having a work programme setting out key areas to be addressed will be maximised.

5.7 Financial Implications

It is anticipated that the costs of the activities set out in the work programme will be met from within existing resources. Any variances that arise will be highlighted through regular financial monitoring during the year.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

District wide

**Report prepared by Matthew Cumberbatch, Group Solicitor
Tel: 01952 383255**