

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 10th DECEMBER 2009

ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

To provide details of the Terms of Reference and role and function of the Standards Committee as it appears in the Council's Constitution for review by this Committee

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Standards Committee review its Terms of Reference and make any recommendations for changes as appropriate.

3. SUMMARY

The Standards Committee reviews its Terms of Reference annually. The Committee are asked to consider whether any amendments are required and make any recommendations for further changes as appropriate.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

19/09/05 – ST-12
24/01/07 – ST-32
18/12/08 – ST-

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

Within the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee there is a provision that the Committee should annually review its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference for the Committee (together with confirmation of the Committee's functions, powers and duties) appear in the Council's Constitution. Comments are welcome from the Committee regarding any points in either the Terms of Reference or role and function which they consider are in need of amendment. The terms of reference are attached at appendix 1.

- 5.2 There has been only one recent change to the Standards Committee terms of reference and that relates to the introduction of a sub-committee to consider dispensations. This change has still to be approved by full Council.
- 5.3 The system for local assessment of Code of Conduct complaints has now been in place for about 18 months. The Committee may wish, as part of the review, to focus particularly on the terms that relate to the local assessment process to address any areas which they believe may be causing concern and accordingly may require amendment.
- 5.4 The review of the terms of reference is an area of work identified in the Standards Committee's current work plan.

5.5 Equal Opportunities

No implications identified

5.6 Environmental Impact

No implications identified

5.7 Legal Comment

The Standards Committee undertakes functions in accordance with legislative requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and other associated legislation. Any changes to the Terms of Reference must not only be compliant with legislative requirements but should also take into account guidance from Standards for England.

5.8 Links with Corporate Priorities

Ensuring that the terms of reference for the Committee are up to date and compliant with legislative requirements assists the Council in meeting its objective of being "an Efficient, Effective and Customer-Focused Council".

5.9 Opportunities and Risk

The opportunities and risk associated with this review have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

5.10 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report; the administration and operation of Standards Committee and the sub-committee are met from within existing revenue budgets.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

District wide implications

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Act 2000

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Standards Board for England Guidance - "The Role and Make-Up of Standards Committees", "Local Assessment of Complaints".

Report prepared by Matthew Cumberbatch, Group Solicitor, Legal Services

Tel: 01952 383255