

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 18th JUNE 2009

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

To present the draft version of the annual report of Telford & Wrekin Council Standards Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee approve the draft version of the annual report of the Standards Committee, subject to any amendments/comments that they wish to make.

2.2 That the Committee consider the points raised in paragraph 5.1.2 of this report, and provide directions to the Monitoring Officer concerning any further work that needs to be done.

3. SUMMARY

The annual report of the Standards Committee has been prepared for approval.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee 21st April 2009 (ST-39)

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

5.1.1 Officers have prepared a draft version of the annual report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2008 – 09. The preparation of the report is in accordance with the work plan agreed by the Standards Committee at the meeting on 21 April 2009. The draft version of the report is attached as an appendix for consideration by the Committee.

5.1.2 At the same time as preparing the draft annual report, the Monitoring Officer has been required by the Standards Board for England to submit an annual return providing information to the Standards Board in relation to the operation of the Standards Committee and including other information covering a number of areas such as promoting standards, training and leadership. Some of the questions asked by the Standards Board have raised a number of issues not recently considered by the Standards Committee. These topics are set out below:-

- Promotion of Standards – Does the Committee want to do more to promote standards to members and officers of the authority and to the wider public?
- Leadership – Does the Committee and/or Chairman of the Committee wish to have meetings with the Leader of the Council and/or the Chief Executive to discuss ethical issues?

- Register of interests – Should members' register of interest forms and the members' gifts and hospitality book be made available to the public via the Council's website?

5.2 Equality and Diversity

All processes and procedures undertaken by the Standards Committee need to comply with the appropriate equality and diversity legislation, regulations and guidance.

5.3 Environmental Impact

No implications.

5.4 Legal Comment

It is not a legal requirement to produce an annual report with regard to the work undertaken by the Standards Committee. However, the Standards Board for England, in accordance with powers acquired under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 can request information from Standards Committees. The annual return requested by the Standards Board for England represents a request for such information.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

Providing an annual report which is made available to the Standards Board for England and to the public assists the Council in ensuring it meets the corporate priority of being an effective efficient and customer focussed Council.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

The risks associated with producing an annual report for the Standards Committee have been assessed. Every effort will be made to ensure that the risks are managed effectively and the opportunities arising from producing the annual report are maximised.

5.7 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from the production of the Annual Report.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

District wide

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

End of Report

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