

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 10th MARCH 2011**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN UPDATE**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE**

To provide an update of the work of the Committee during the municipal year.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 That the contents of the report are noted and agreed.**

**3. SUMMARY**

The work of the Standards Committee was planned at the beginning of the municipal year and set out in a work plan. The plan is attached and updated to confirm the work that has been undertaken and explain why some areas have not been addressed.

**4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Standards Committee 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – ST5

**5. INFORMATION**

**5.1 Background**

5.1.1 At the beginning of the municipal year the Standards Committee agreed a work plan to direct the monitoring Officer in relation to work which the Committee wanted to address. Deadlines were set as appropriate and the plan was included in the Standards Committee's annual report.

Since the work plan was agreed the government has announced plans to abolish the Standards Board regime and the Localism Bill contains provisions to make significant changes to the ethical framework. These proposals have had an impact upon the work of the Standards Committee this year. At appendix 1 the work plan had been reproduced with an update on each area of work.

The Committee are requested to review the work plan and provide comments and suggestions as appropriate.

## **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 a work plan. However it is seen as good practice to do so. Future work plans will be determined by the changes to the ethical framework proposed in the Localism Bill which is expected to come into force from the end of this year onwards.

## **5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities**

Providing an work plan for officers to work to during the municipal year 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 a work plan 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**

The work of Standards Committee is carried out within existing budgets and any variances are reported through the regular financial monitoring process. Any financial implications arising from the Localism Act will have to be assessed once further detail is known.

## **6. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

District wide

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **End of Report**

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