

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 16th JUNE 2011

ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE 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

2.1 That the Committee

- (i) Review the terms of reference and make amendments as appropriate;**
- (ii) Note and agree the changes proposed by the Monitoring Officer outlined at paragraph 5.1.4 of this report**

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

24/01/07 – ST-32
18/12/08 – ST-24
10/12/09 – ST –22
17/06/10 – ST – 7

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 The review of the terms of reference is an area of work identified in the Standards Committee's draft work plan which is to be considered by the Standards Committee on 17th June 2011.

5.1.3 The Localism Bill proposes the abolition of the Standards Board regime and is expected to come into force in late 2011/early 2012. However, in the meantime the ethical framework as set out in the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, remains in force. It is therefore suggested that there are only minor changes to the terms of reference proposed at this stage but that the Monitoring Officer reports back to this Committee when there are further significant developments.

5.1.4 The minor changes proposed are as follows –

- (i) Change the elected membership number to “up to eight elected members” to reflect the current political balance
- (ii) Change references to Standards Board to England to Standards for England to reflect the current operating name of the Standards Board.

5.2 Equal Opportunities

No implications identified

5.3 Environmental Impact

No implications identified

5.4 Legal Comment

The Standards Committee undertakes functions in accordance with legislative requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, 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.

5.5 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 a Community Focused and Efficient Council”.

5.6 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.

5.7 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".

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