

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL 2010 - 11

INTRODUCTION

The work of the Committee has continued whilst the government is formulating changes to the ethical framework. Standards for England have reduced some of the administrative burden upon the Committee by removing the requirement to provide quarterly returns to them. They have also cancelled the Annual Standards Committee Assembly.

During the year the Committee has continued to consider complaints and review its policies and procedures. The Monitoring Officer Protocol, Assessment and Review criteria and investigation and hearing procedure have all been reviewed and updated. The Committee also continues to review its own terms of reference every year.

In setting a work plan for the 2011/12 municipal year, consideration needs to be given to the changes proposed by the Localism Bill which will determine the work of the Committee during the second half of the year and beyond. The work plan for the municipal year 2011/12 is attached to this report.

COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

During the municipal year 2010/11 the following complaints have been processed:-

Assessments – 4

Matters referred for local investigation – 2

Matters referred to Standards For England for investigation – 1

Matters referred for other action – 1

Matters where no further action was required - 0

Reviews – 0

Consideration Hearings – 4

Determination hearings - 1

OUTCOMES

During the municipal year 2010/11 the Committee considered reports from four local investigations which had been requested by the committee during the previous

municipal year. Three investigations found no breach of the Code of Conduct and those findings were accepted by the Committee. One investigation found a breach which was determined as such by the Standards Committee Hearing Panel. On one occasion the Committee directed the Monitoring Officer to undertake other action, namely to invite a Borough Councillor for code of Conduct training. The Committee subsequently confirmed that they were satisfied with the actions undertaken by the Monitoring Officer to comply with that direction.

TRAINING

Code of Conduct training for borough councillors and councillors from the Town & Parish Councils took place on the 22 February and 2 March 2010 respectively. Due to this training taking place late on in the last municipal year (and tied in with the uncertainty over the future of the ethical framework) no Code of conduct training was provided during the year.

CONTACT DETAILS

Further information about the work of the Standards Committee and details of how to make a complaint regarding the conduct of a Councillor can be obtained from the following council officers:-

- Jonathan Eatough – Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer.
Telephone 01952 383200
email: Jonathan.Eatough@telford.gov.uk
- Matthew Cumberbatch – Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer.
Telephone 01952 383255
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- Ian Ross – Group Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer.
Telephone 01952 383255
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- Kirsty Fisher – Group Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
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- Phil Griffiths – Head of Democratic Services.
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Or alternatively by writing to the officers referred to above at:

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