

**REPORT FOR DECISION**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	
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**MEETING:** STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2005  
**SUBJECT:** INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
**REPORT FROM:** MONITORING OFFICER  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**TYPE OF DECISION:** COMMITTEE

**REPORT STATUS:** OPEN

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To remind Members of the Committee's role and terms of reference; to consider items dealt with by the Committee in 2004/2005; and to consider issues for determination by the Committee in 2005/2006.

**OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION (with reasons):**

The Committee is asked to note the report.

**IMPLICATIONS -**

**Financial Implications and Risk Considerations**

There are no such implications arising from this report

**Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:**

Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes  No

Are there any legal implications? Yes  No

**Considered by Monitoring Officer:** Yes

**Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government:** N/A

**Staffing/ICT/Property:** N/A

**Wards Affected:** N/A

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## **1. ROLE AND FUNCTION**

1.1 The role and functions of the Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution are as follows:-

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) granting dispensations to Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an ethical standards officer to the Monitoring Officer.

## **1.2 THE COMMITTEE ALSO UNDERTAKES THE FOLLOWING ROLES:-**

- Overview of the whistle blowing policy
- Overview of complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations
- Oversight of the Constitution.

## **2. MATTERS CONSIDERED DURING 2004/2005**

- Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy
- Local Government Ombudsman – Annual Report and Remedies
- Consultation Paper on a Draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees
- Consultation Paper entitled "Review of the Regulatory Framework covering the Political Activities of Local Government Employees
- Protocol for Member and Officer Relations
- Provisions of the Local Authority's (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) (Amendment) (Regulations) 2004 which enabled some matters to be referred to and dealt with by a local authority's monitoring officer.
- Local Determination

## **3. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2005/2006**

Some suggested topics for consideration are set out below:

- Review of Member Training on the Ethical Framework
- Local Government Ombudsman – Annual Report
- Corporate Complaints Procedure - This is currently the subject of review by a working group set up by the Performance Management Scrutiny Panel.

