

**REPORT FOR DECISION**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	
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**MEETING:** STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**DATE:** THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2006

**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 2005/2006; and to consider a programme of work for the Committee in 2006/2007.

**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. WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2005/2006**

Issues considered and dealt with in 2005/2006 are set out below:

- Review of Member Training on the Ethical Framework
- Local Government Ombudsman – Annual Report
- Corporate Complaints Procedure - This has been the subject of review by a working group set up by the Performance Management Scrutiny Panel. The deliberations of the Working Group will be fed into the scrutiny process and a copy of the findings will be forwarded to this Committee.
- Code of Conduct – Self Assessment Survey.
- Standards Bulletins – To provide the Committee with an opportunity to see the draft before it is issued to all members.
- Issues arising from the Standards Hearing
- Code of Conduct for Non-Voting Representatives

