BURY METRO

REPORT FOR DECISION

Agenda Item	

MEETING: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY 31 MAY 2007

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND WORK PROGRAMME

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 2006/2007; and to consider a programme of work for the Committee in 2007/2008.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION (with reasons):
The Committee is asked to note the report and to agree a Work Programme for 2007/2008..

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

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 2006/2007

2.1 Issues considered and dealt with in 2006/2007 are set out below:

- Review of Hearing Procedure Documents
- Obligations of Members who are appointed to serve on outside bodies
- Ethical Governance Survey
- Revised Model Code of Conduct
- Code of Conduct for Non Voting Representatives

2.2 At its meeting on 15 February 2007, the Committee introduced an item entitled "Standards Issues," which provides an opportunity for Members to raise issues of interest or concern and to receive current information on standards issues. As a result, the Committee has already identified the following as potential areas for further consideration:

- That when considering its Work Programme, the Committee consider including in-depth reviews of sections of the Code and in particular, the Committee look at the issue of bullying and consider any protocols currently in existence within the Council.

- That a progress report be sought on the consideration by the Healthier Communities Scrutiny Commission of Care Agencies providing services, in light of the Ombudsman case reported previously to this Committee.

- That the Committee consider training for Members, including the content of that training.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Members are asked to note the report and to compile and agree a Work Programme for 2007/2008, taking into account the issues raised in Paragraph 2.2.

List of Background Papers:

(1) Council Constitution – Article 9 and Part 3
(2) Minutes of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2006/2007

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