

## **Report of Head of Legal Services**

### **15. Annual Report from the Standards Committee**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To inform the Authority of the proceedings of the Standards Committee since the last Annual General Meeting of the Authority.
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#### **Recommendation**

***The Monitoring Officer recommends that the Authority notes the Committee's Annual Report to the Authority.***

#### **Standards Committee Proceedings since June 2012**

2. The Monitoring Officer is pleased to report to the Authority that no complaints have been made against any Member of the Authority alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct during the past 12 months.
3. The Standards Committee met once on 29 January 2013.
4. At that meeting the Committee discussed:
  - (i) the granting of dispensations; and
  - (ii) the proposed new committee structure for the Authority.

#### **Granting of Dispensations**

5. The Committee granted dispensations to Members on the setting of the Authority's budget and precept and Members' Allowances Scheme.
6. The matter had been brought to the Committee in view of the fact that other neighbouring Authorities had granted dispensations to Members for these matters.
7. In the view of the Clerk these matters were not Disclosable Personal Interests but in view of the fact that other Authorities had granted dispensations to their Members to do so put the matter beyond doubt.

#### **Committee Structure**

8. In view of the changes in the Localism Act, which resulted in a reduced workload for Standards, the Standards Committee agreed the recommendation that a separate Standards Committee was no longer required and that this function be combined with that of the Audit Committee.

## Conclusion/Summary

Since the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 the work of the Standards Committee has diminished and the decision to merge the Standards Committee with the Audit Committee is prudent.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	There will be potential savings to the Authority in amalgamating the Standards and Audit Committee as only one special responsibility allowance will be payable.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	No. Not applicable.

Background papers – Agenda and papers for the meeting of the Standards Committee, 23 May 2012.

## Contact Officer

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