

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

STANDARDS BOARD GUIDANCE ON “OTHER ACTION” 18th June 2009

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to consider recent Guidance published by the Standards Board for England.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That the report be noted and that Members consider whether they wish to amend the Assessment Criteria for “other action” in the light of the Guidance.**

1.0 Report

1.1 As Members will be aware, when an Assessment Sub-Committee considers a complaint, the options open to it are to take no action, to refer the matter to the Standards Board, or to refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer. If the Sub-Committee refers a complaint to the Monitoring Officer, it can direct the Monitoring Officer to investigate the matter or to take steps other than carrying out an investigation. This is known as “other action”.

1.2 The Standards Board has recently issued new Guidance for Standards Committees on “other action”, and this is appended to the report at Appendix 1.

1.3 In the light of the new Guidance, the Committee may wish to consider amending its Assessment Criteria for “other action”. Suggested amendments are set out (with the amendments tracked) in Appendix 2.

2.0 Details of Consultation

2.1 There has been no consultation.

3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

3.1 The report is for noting, although the Committee is asked to consider making amendments to the Assessment Criteria.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as adviser to the Standards Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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