

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 22nd January 2009

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to approve a work programme for the forthcoming year.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the work programme attached to the report be approved.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 It is considered good practice for the Standards Committee to have a published work programme, although it is inevitable that this may change from time to time as and when consultation papers are published or new legislation implemented.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 A draft work programme is attached for Members' consideration, and the Committee is asked to approve the programme with or without amendments.

2.2 Members will note that the work programme provides for a review in June 2009 of its assessment criteria and other procedures for dealing with complaints. This will be a year after the implementation of the new system for the handling of complaints locally. Members will also note that there is reference in the work programme to an ethical governance survey. The Council's External Auditor has recently recommended that an "ethical survey" be conducted with members and officers to assess standards of ethical behaviour and to enable the Council to demonstrate awareness of the importance of high standards. The Monitoring Officer, with the Internal Audit Manager, will be progressing a survey along the lines recommended by the External Auditor, and the results will be reported to this Committee.

2.3 The work programme will be a living document and will be updated as and when required.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 There has been no consultation.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1 It is open to the Committee to approve the work programme with or without amendment.

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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