

PROGRAMME OF WORK

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines matters for consideration by the Standards Committee and a proposed programme of work for 2002/3.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 By its nature the Standards Committee may need to meet on an ad hoc basis over the coming months should matters arise with regard to the standard of conduct of Members at both district and parish level under regulation and statutory provision.
- 2.2 In addition, the Committee has been tasked with other responsibilities and Members are invited to consider how these matters are to be approached.

3 ISSUES FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Training for Members – Codes of Conduct and General Competency

- 3.1 A draft programme of training for Members will be provided at the meeting to accompany the report on training later on this agenda. A Standards Committee meeting will be required at the conclusion of the programme to assess the adequacy and take up of the sessions proposed. In the meantime the Committee will need to consider its methodology for such assessment.

Specialist Training for the Standards Committee

- 3.2 Members are asked to consider what, if any, specialist training is required in connection with their duties. This may differ between District, Parish and Independent Members to some degree. Training may be arranged individually where necessary, collectively for all members of the Committee or as part of the agenda for a future Standards Committee meeting.
- 3.3 It is likely that the responsibilities of the Standards Committee will change if the procedure currently the subject of consultation is adopted.

Members Remuneration

- 3.4 The Council has requested this Committee to consider proposals on discretionary payments from the Remuneration Panel. A report will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee

Monitoring of Members attendance at meetings and training sessions

- 3.5 The Committee has been tasked with monitoring Members' attendance both at meetings and training sessions. Members views are sought on the approach to be taken and frequency of report.

Parish liaison

- 3.6 The Standards Committee has a responsibility for overseeing the standard of conduct of Parish Councillors. Members may wish to give consideration to how this is to be undertaken and how proactive a role the Committee wishes to adopt.
- 3.7 The Committee may also wish to consider its powers to grant dispensations to Parish Councillors under the Code of Conduct in certain circumstances.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All research, investigations and data collection has a resource implication for the Authority. Where this is significant, it may have budget implications beyond the provisions contained within existing estimates.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Standards Committee fulfils a statutory function on behalf of the Council.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee's terms of reference include responsibility for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct and exercising functions in relation to Parish Councils

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To determine its work programme. (CD(LPA))

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Background Papers:

None

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