

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 14 JULY 2009

STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Report of the: Monitoring Officer

Status: For Consideration and Decision

Executive Summary: This report presents to the Committee a draft Forward Work Programme for approval as at 14 July 2009.

This report supports the Key Aim of effective management of Council resources.

Portfolio Holder **Cllr. Elaine Bracken**

Head of Service Head of Legal and Democratic Services – Christine Nuttall

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that:

the Committee approves the draft Forward Work Programme as at 14 July 2009 subject to any amendments the Committee wishes to make.

Background

- 1 In order to promote Good Practice it is suggested that the Standards Committee consider adopting a Forward Work Programme, the main aim of which is to assist the Standards Committee. It is anticipated that this Forward Work Programme will record issues for consideration by the Committee. In order for the Committee to consider this matter further a draft Forward Work Programme as at 14 July 2009 has been annexed as an Appendix for the Committee to comment on.

Introduction

- 2 The Forward Work Programme identifies items and suggests a target date for completion. It is anticipated that as new items are identified these will be included by updating the Forward Work Programme.
- 3 It is hoped that in presenting the information in this way, it will provide an opportunity for the Committee to monitor the progress of its Forward Work Programme.
- 4 The Forward Work Programme could be a standing item on the Committee's Agenda.

Options (and Reasons for the Recommendation)

5 The report is for consideration and decision.

Key Implications

Financial

6 There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. However, there may be financial implications inherent in specific elements of the Forward Work Programme and these will be assessed as the work progresses.

Community Impact and Outcomes

7 Successful delivery of the Forward Work Programme is one of the indicators to enable objective judgement to be made on how effective the Committee has been in promoting high ethical standards amongst District, Parish and Town Councillors and in providing matters such as training, dealing with local assessment of Member Complaints, determining the outcome of local investigations and monitoring compliance with protocols and procedures.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

8 There are no direct legal or human rights implications associated with this report. However, as individual items are progressed through the Forward Work Programme any individual legal implications will then be assessed.

Resource (non-financial)

9 The resource implications of any issues arising from the Forward Work Programme will be advised as and when they occur.

Value For Money and Asset Management

10 There are no identifiable value for money and asset management implications associated with the Forward Work Programme.

Equality

11 The Forward Work Programme is to be organised and developed having regard to the Equality and Diversity Strategy of the Council. All members of the public will have access to the information contained within this report.

Sustainability Checklist

12 The Forward Work Programme should inform the public of the type of work to be carried out by the Committee during the year which should promote public confidence by demonstrating that systems are in place to promote high ethical standards.

Conclusions

- 13 The purpose of the Forward Work Programme is to ensure that the Committee has a planned programme of work for the year. The Monitoring Officer can identify issues which are due for review and Members can also introduce matters that they feel are appropriate for the Committee to consider.

Risk Assessment Statement

- 14 The purpose of implementing the Forward Work Programme is to minimise the prospect of findings of poor ethical governance. The risk of this happening are identified as low.

Sources of Information: Guidance produced by the Standards Board for England

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