

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN INFORMATION ITEM

Committee/ Panel	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	Date: 03.03.11
Originating Service Group(s)	CUSTOMER AND SHARED SERVICES	
Contact Officer(s)/	S KEMBREY/F DAVIS	
Telephone Number(s)	4910/4932	
Title/Subject Matter	<u>MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT</u>	

Recommendation

Standards Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and indicate any areas in respect of which further information is requested.

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT

1.0 Background

1.1 The Joint Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committees held on 16 April 2007 agreed that the Standards Committee should receive regular reports from the Monitoring Officer. This is the fourth such report for 2010/11.

2.0 Future of Standards for England/Standards Regime

2.1 A report on the future of the Standards Regime, Code of Conduct for Councillors and Local Assessment through Standards Committees, following publication of the Localism Bill on 13 December 2010, was presented to the Joint Audit/Standards Committee on 13 January 2011.

2.2 As far as the Standards Regime was concerned, it was reported that the proposed provisions in the Bill introduced an Authority wide local standard regime. The Bill, as originally drafted introduced a power for an Authority to adopt a local regime.

2.3 The Bill is now proceeding through its Second Reading in Parliament and Committee dates have been fixed until 10 March 2011. An amendment to the Future Standards Regime has been made, that instead of a power for an Authority to adopt a Voluntary Code of Conduct, as originally proposed, the Bill has now been amended to introduce a duty for an authority to adopt a Local Code of Conduct for Members and local Standards regime.

2.4 A seminar for members on the Bill has been arranged for 7 March 2011.

3.0 Local Assessment

3.1 No complaints alleging that Members have failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct have been received since the last meeting of the Standards Committee on 13 January 2011.

4.0 Publications

4.1 Standards for England have not issued any publications since the last meeting of the Standards Committee.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 This report details work undertaken to comply with the ethical framework relating to Local Government under Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000.
[FD/24022011/W]

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 The Council is required to provide the Monitoring Officer with sufficient resources to undertake her responsibilities. Provision is made within the Revenue Budget.
[DM/24022011/X]

7.0 Equalities Implications

7.1 The Members' Code of Conduct contains specific obligations relating to equalities.

8.0 Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.