

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN INFORMATION ITEM

Originating Service Group(s)	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	Date: 28 JULY 2011
Originating Service Group(s)	DELIVERY	
Contact Officer(s)/	S KEMBREY	F DAVIS
Telephone Number(s)	4910	4932
Title	<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 however information is requested.

MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The joint meeting of the Audit and Standards Committees held on the 16 April 2007 agreed that the Standards Committee should receive regular reports from the Monitoring Officer. This is the first such report for 2011/12.

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 Committee stage in the House of Lords. At the time of writing the report, the next scheduled date for debate was the 19 July 2011.
- 2.4 A seminar for Members Briefing on the Bill have been held on the 7 March 2011 and Peter Keith-Lucas of Bevan Brittan Solicitors made a presentation to the Joint Strategic Executive Board/Corporate Delivery Board on the 23 June 2011.

3.0 LOCAL ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 One complaint under the Members' Code of Conduct has been received since the last meeting of the Standards Committee on 16 June 2011. An Assessment Sub Committee has been arranged for the 29 July 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/19072011/G]

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/21/07/11/X]

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES 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

SCHEDULES OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: GP29/11 held in Legal Services

Previous "Monitoring Officer Reports" on previous agendas of Standards Committee