

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

26 NOVEMBER 2012

1. APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES

Report of the Clerk to the Authority and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDED

That two Standards Sub-Committees be appointed for 2012/13, with delegated powers to carry out the functions set out in the following terms of reference, and with the membership set out below:

Terms of reference

To consider investigation reports referred to it by the Monitoring Officer and to conduct hearings (including the imposition of sanctions).

Membership

SUB-COMMITTEE 1		SUB-COMMITTEE 2	
Member	Substitute	Member	Substitute
Chambers	Tranter	Tranter	Chambers
Finnegan	Young	Young	Finnegan
Wright	Yardley	Yardley	Wright

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To ask the Committee to establish Sub-Committees to deal with investigation reports and hearings in pursuance of the standards arrangements agreed by the Authority in pursuance of the Localism Act 2011.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to adopt new arrangements for dealing with complaints about breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. The Authority at its meeting on 25 June

2012 approved a new standards framework including revised terms of reference for the Standards Committee (Appendix 1), a new Member Code of Conduct (Appendix 2), and revised arrangements for dealing with complaints and investigations in respect of the Member Code of Conduct (Appendix 3).

- 3.2 The revised arrangements for dealing with complaints provides for a Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee to consider investigation reports referred to it by the Monitoring Officer and to conduct hearings (including the imposition of sanctions).
- 3.3 Two sub-committees will allow the workload to be shared between members of the Committee.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this report proposes a continuation of policy established through previous legislation. The Authority will have due regard to the equalities duties in the operation of its standards framework.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a relevant authority must have in place arrangements under which allegations that a member or co-opted member of the authority has failed to comply with the authority's code of conduct can be investigated, and arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made. There is no statutory requirement as to the nature of these allegations.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no strategic resource implications arising from this report.

**N SHARMA
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
AND MONITORING OFFICER**

Background Papers

The Localism Act 2011
The Member Code of Conduct and Process for Managing Standards
Complaints approved by the Authority 25 June 2012