

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Standards Committee**

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**1. COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS - LEAFLET**

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

**RECOMMENDED**

THAT Members consider and comment on the draft leaflet annexed at Appendix 1.

THAT the Monitoring Officer finalise the drafting of the leaflet and that these be used by the authority to strengthen the authority's ethical governance framework.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 The regulators require that the public is sufficiently informed about the ethical framework and how to make complaints about members. A draft leaflet has been prepared to ensure that information is sufficiently widely available in relation to how to complain about member misconduct. The draft leaflet is annexed as Appendix 1 and it is hoped that the leaflet will enhance the public's understanding of the complaints process. The leaflet will be made widely available particularly in public buildings. It is also the intention to make the leaflet available on-line from the authority's website.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The draft leaflet seeks to provide information more widely to the public and members on how to complain about members of the Authority.

**4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2000 established the Standards Board for England and gave it the primary duty to consider written allegations. New legislation, now implemented, transferred the duties to receive and carry out the initial assessments of the referrals to the Standards Committee of the authority. Sub-Committees carry out the duties of assessment, referral, consideration and determination on behalf of the Standards Committee.
- 5.2 The expectation of the Standards Board is that the Authority will involve the public in maintaining and reviewing its arrangements. The risk of not adopting such good practice is that the Standards Board as the strategic regulator will determine that the authority is not being sufficiently proactive in discharging its duties.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no significant resource implications arising directly as a result of this report.

**N SHARMA**  
**MONITORING OFFICER**