

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18th May 2009

1. **GOOD PRACTICE: THE LGC STANDARDS AND ETHICS AWARD**

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

Members consider what actions the Monitoring Officer, Standards Committee or the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority should take in the future to further strengthen the activities and arrangements for promoting and supporting high standards of ethical conduct.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 The Standards Board for England is the strategic adviser and regulator for the local standards regime.

2.2 The Standards Committee has mainly met to consider legislative changes, associated guidance or for training and development purposes. Whilst Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee have been established as required there have been no complaints received and therefore no case work for the members of the Standards Committee to be engaged in. It must be noted however that two of the main purposes of the Standards Committee is in fact to:

- promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members of the Authority; and
- to determine, monitor and review the arrangements for the local ethical standards regime.

2.3 By considering and as appropriate following good practice from the Standards Board for England or other authorities the Standards Committee and the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority can further improve the effectiveness of the local ethical standards regime.

To enable this the Standards Committee is requested to consider information from the Standards Board for England on the six local authorities that were shortlisted for the LGC Standards and Ethics Award.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The LGC runs an annual awards competition that highlights various aspects of good practice in local government. This year the standards and ethics award was introduced, supported by the Standards Board for England.

3.2 It is advisable to be proactive and consider what aspects of the identified and publicised good practice should be adopted by the Standards Committee and the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Standards Board is the strategic adviser and also regulator of the local standards regime. It supported the LGC standards and ethics award and therefore it is important to consider the good practice it is disseminating and to adopt such of this practice as is considered appropriate for this Authority.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst development and implementation of any good practice being disseminated from the LGC standards and ethics award.

N SHARMA
MONITORING OFFICER