

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Standards Committee

7th September 2009

1. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Standards Committee approve its work programme, subject to any agreed amendments, for the municipal year 2009/2010.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 18th May 2009 received a report in relation to the Standards Board Annual Return. The Standards Committee agreed a number of actions, following consideration of the Return, which included a work programme for the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year. The Monitoring Officer has now prepared a work programme for endorsement by the Standards Committee which is attached as Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 18th May 2009 the Standards Committee agreed inter alia that a work programme for the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2009/2010 be prepared. The Monitoring Officer has given consideration to the matter and put together a work programme which captures both the statutory functions required by relevant legislation and the non-statutory functions, including those promoted by the Standards Board. This has resulted in a robust and challenging work programme for the Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year. The full work programme is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. It should be noted that whilst the programme has not previously been formally endorsed by the Standards Committee the Monitoring Officer has developed and been working through such a mechanism with the assistance of members of Legal Services and Governance Services.

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, the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) Regulations 2009 establish the legal framework for ethical governance and the role and makeup of Standards Committees. In addition Guidance issued by the Standards Board for England must be taken into account by the Council.
- 5.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 brought in legislative changes to the ethical framework with regard to local assessment of complaints.
- 5.3 It is important to adopt any good practice promoted by the Standards Board (which is both the national strategic advisor and the regulator on issues relating to standards.) Failure to do this may draw adverse findings from the Standards Board.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report. However, some of the items in the work programme may require additional funding to secure implementation.

N SHARMA
MONITORING OFFICER