

STANDARDS COMMITTEE		
Report Title	WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11	
Key Decision		Item No. 8
Ward		
Contributors		
Class	Part 1	Date: 24 JUNE 2010

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to agree a programme of work for the Committee.

2. POLICY CONTEXT

The Council's modernisation agenda has at its heart the highest standards of conduct in public life. The promotion of such standards is key to the accountability of the Council and its Members to local people.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve a work programme for the Committee as set out at paragraph 5.5.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 It is the role of the Standards Committee to advise the Council on the local code of conduct and to monitor the code and update it as necessary. The Committee will have a key role in implementing the code, providing and organising training for councillors on ethical conduct.
- 4.2 The committee will also investigate and deal with allegations of impropriety referred to them and breaches of protocol not forming part of the Lewisham Code of Conduct.
- 4.3 The Standards Committee will continue to be a source for advice and guidance.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 In March 2006 , the Committee agreed the following work programme for the municipal year 2006/07 :-

November/December 2006

- Members and officers indemnities
- Update on proposed legislative changes

April/May/June 2007

- Work programme 2007/08
- Monitoring of complaints , whistleblowing and Code of Conduct
- Review of compliance with Code of Corporate Governance

5.2 At its meeting in March 2006, the Committee agreed that in future the annual report to the Standards Committee monitoring complaints be timed to coincide with and include the Local Government Ombudsman's annual report. Such a report is normally presented in June and consequently a report monitoring complaints for 2009 will be presented to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

5.3 The Council's Whistleblowing Policy does provide for the preparation of an annual report from the whistleblowing officer on behalf of the Chief Executive detailing the application of the whistleblowing procedure in the previous year. The annual review appears as a separate item on the agenda.

5.4 To give effect to the work programme the following programme of work is suggested and the committee's agreement as to the intended work programme is sought.

5.5 November/December 2010

- Annual complaints report
- Compliance with Member Code of Conduct

April/May/June 2011

- Work programme 2011/12
- Annual Review of Complaints made under the Council's Whistle blowing Policy
- Review of Local Code of Corporate Governance

Members should be aware that they may have issues referred to the Committee outside of the programmed meetings.

6. LEGAL, FINANCIAL, HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications at this stage.