

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Electoral Commission Performance Standards for Returning Officers	
Key Decision	n/a	Item No. 4
Ward	n/a	
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Class	Part 1	Date: 30 July, 2009

1. Purpose

This report advises the Committee of details of the new Performance Standards regime for Returning Officers recently introduced by the Electoral Commission.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the report be noted.

3. Introduction

3.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 gave the Electoral Commission authority to set and monitor Performance Standards for the delivery of Electoral Registration and Elections. In respect of the latter, the performance standards framework intends to provide a clear picture of what needs to be achieved to support a well-run election; and to provide an objective process for assessing performance against commonly agreed standards.

3.2 The Election standards are as follows -

- PS1. Skills and knowledge of the Returning Officer
- PS2. Planning processes in place for an election
- PS3. Training
- PS4. Maintaining the integrity of the election
- PS5. Planning and delivering public awareness activity
- PS6. Accessibility of information to electors
- PS7. Communication of information to candidates and agents

3.3 Attached at Appendix 1 are the detailed standards, which includes a self assessment of where the Returning Officer considers the authority to be in relation to each. This assessment is made using the guidance issued by the Commission. There are a number of levels and these are 'Not currently meeting the standard', 'Achieving the standard' and,

'Above the standard'. Each standard has a number of actions that it is expected Returning Officers will be able to evidence to support achievement of the appropriate level.

- 3.4 The Committee will note that the self assessment considers that for all 7 of the standards the Council is 'Above standard'.
- 3.5 As this assessment was only required to be submitted recently, there is no information available at the moment showing the overall performance of Returning Officers in England generally.

4. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the report.

5. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from the report .

6. Crime and disorder implications

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from the report.

7. Equalities implications

There are no equality implications arising from the report .

8. Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications arising from the report .

Background Papers

If there are any queries on this report please contact Dave Kingdon – 020 8314 6907