

Standards Committee : 17 August 2010
Title of report: Draft Work Programme for Standards Committee 2010/11

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	N/A
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Corporate

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: All

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of Report

To consider and approve the draft Work Programme for Standards Committee for 2010/11.

2. Key Points

The 2010/11 draft Work Programme has been prepared in the context of the government's commitment to abolish the standards board regime. At present the detail of the government proposals is not known. It appears that Standards for England will be abolished but is not clear whether the current standards regime will be replaced with a different regime or simply abolished, and whether local authorities will have the opportunity to create their own standards regimes.

Until the proposed legislation is passed the current standards regime will continue to apply. This means that the Code of Conduct will continue to apply to members, complaints about conduct must still be processed and the standards committee's statutory responsibilities will remain.

It may become necessary to review any agreed work programme when the government's detailed proposals are announced.

The draft work programme draws upon previous annual work programmes and the review of the role and functions of Standards Committee reported to committee on 28 April 2010.

3. Implications for the Council

It is good practice for the Standards Committee to produce an annual Work Programme which identifies issues to be addressed during the year and which allows the work done by the committee to be structured and progress to be reviewed.

4. Consultees and their opinions

N/a

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the Committee consider the draft Work Programme, make any appropriate amendments and approve a final version of the Work Programme.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

N/a

7. Next steps

The approved Work Programme will be implemented over the course of 2010/11.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

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Background Papers:

None

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2010/11

- 1 To consider and approve a training plan for new and existing members of the Standards Committee, Kirklees Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors.
- 2 To review the Council's Member/Officer Protocol.
- 3 To review the Kirklees Council Monitoring Officer Protocol.
- 4 To review the protocol for the determination of licensing matters.
- 5 Advise on revised Planning Protocol.
- 6 To adopt a procedure for dealing with political restriction appeals.
- 7 To consider ways of promoting ethical standards where the Council is operating in partnership arrangements with other bodies.
- 8 To consider and approve the work being done by Professor Kitson on improving the standards materials on the Kirklees website.
- 9 To undertake work on the standards issues arising from increased use of social media by councillors.
- 10 To develop a media protocol for standards matters.
- 11 To consider and implement changes in legislation and government policy in relation to the standards regime.