

Standards Committee : 12 October 2010

Title of report: Development of the Standards Materials on the Kirklees Council Website

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

At its meeting on 28 April 2010 the Standards Committee approved the creation of a web portal for the standards material on the Kirklees Council website, nominated Alan Kitson, an external member of the committee, to progress the proposals with officers and requested that a further report be submitted to the committee.

The proposed changes have been incorporated into a dummy version of the website which will be demonstrated to the committee. The purpose of this report is to seek the committee's approval for the proposed changes before any proposals are made live on the website.

2. Key Points

The purpose of the proposed changes to the website is to bring all the relevant information about standards together in one place on the website by providing links to all the relevant information from one page. This is known as a web portal or links page and is a mechanism for bringing diverse information together in one place, to make it easier for users to access the information they need. This involved reviewing the information to ensure that it is in plain English and comprehensible.

3. Implications for the Council

In order to fulfil its role of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct among members the standards committee needs to make the public aware of its role and the procedures for making complaints about member conduct. Greater openness and transparency about the standards process should help improve standards and engender public confidence in local democracy.

4. Consultees and their opinions

N/a

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that committee view the proposed amendments to the website and suggest any changes they think necessary or desirable before the amendments are made live.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

N/a

7. Next steps

See recommendation.

8. Contact member and officer and relevant papers

Professor Alan Kitson
Independent member of Standards Committee

Dermot Pearson
Senior Legal Officer

Telephone: 01484 221437
Internal: 860 1437
E-mail: Dermot.pearson@kirklees.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None