

Subject: TO AGREE A PROCEDURE
FOR LOCAL STANDARD HEARINGS

Status: For Publication

Report to: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: 22nd August 2006

Report of: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Portfolio

Holder: Duncan Ruddick

Key Decision:

NO

Forward Plan
Relevant Box

General Exception

Special Urgency

"X" In

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To recommend the approval of a procedure for Local Standard Hearings. To agree to the establishment of a Standards Board Panel.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- *The Council is committed to high standards of ethical governance and good governance principles agreeing a work plan and organising events training will ensure all members of the Council improve their ethical governance standards.*
- *Member Development is a Corporate priority, training has been organised for this year on ethical governance and risk management. More training/shared learning is essential to improve the Council's ethical/good governance standards.*

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Council should have in place proper procedures to deal with local determinations.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council currently does not have a procedure for dealing with Local Determinations.
- 4.2 It is likely that the Standards Board for England will be referring more alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members for local investigation. The Council therefore needs to agree a procedure for dealing with such.

5. COMMENTS OF HEAD OF FINANCE

- 5.1 No comments.

6. COMMENTS OF HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 6.1 No comments

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 To improve the role and function of the Standards Committee it is essential that a procedure for dealing with local determinations is agreed.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That the Committee agrees to the adoption of the procedure attached at Appendix 1.
- 8.2 That the Committee agrees to the establishment of a Standard Board Panel to consider cases into alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct.
- 8.3 That the Committee decides the quorum for the Panel.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 9.1 Democratic Services Manager
The Chair of Standards Committee

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No background papers