

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - PROPOSED PLAN 2010-2014

Goals	Actions	Target Dates	Link to Wiltshire Council Goals
<p>Apply the local standards framework in a fair, efficient and proportionate manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider outcome of Standards for England's review on proportionality in local standards framework; review proportionality in the operation of the Council's own procedures. • review approach to local assessment to bring more in line with national average of complaints referred for investigation; arrange workshop on local assessment. • implement new Code of Conduct with training for all councillors. 	<p>Completion date for S. for E's review not known yet, but probably late Spring. Review operation of procedures by July 2010</p> <p>Workshop on 13 January. Review quarterly.</p> <p>New Code due out May 2010 with adoption by each Council by September 2010. Arrange training before adoption.</p>	<p>Ensure local, open, honest decision-making.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the use of mediation and informal resolution of complaints. 	May 2010	
Promote the ethical well-being of Wiltshire Council by embedding standards further within the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the Council in moving to a single culture by promoting the values articulated in “What will we be like?” • increase the Committee’s visibility by attendance at meetings of Council, Cabinet, Committees and Area Boards. • arrange regular meetings between the Chairman of the Standards Committee, Leader and Chief Executive to maintain contact 	<p>Cllr Laura Mayes, portfolio lead for culture change to be invited to meeting in March 2010. Link in with Council’s action plan for culture change.</p> <p>From January 2010</p> <p>Met on 17 December. Next meeting to be fixed with new Chief Executive February / March 2010 and</p>	<p>Ensure local, open, honest decision-making;</p> <p>Deliver high quality, low cost, customer focused services.</p>

	<p>and exchange areas of development and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work collaboratively with Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees and the Audit Committee in improving the Council's governance arrangements; develop working protocol for inclusion in the Constitution. • undertake review of the effectiveness of the Constitution as requested by Council. • review Council's complaints handling to ensure that complaints are dealt with efficiently and lead to improvements in 	<p>thereafter quarterly.</p> <p>Protocol to be completed for inclusion in Constitution in May 2010. Joint seminars e.g. on Audit and Inspection letter</p> <p>Starts January 2010; complete July 2010 and ongoing thereafter.</p> <p>Review annually.</p>	
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	<p>services to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide training on the Code of Conduct; monitor take-up and effectiveness of training. 	<p>Training Plan to be finalised; see above for training on new code.</p>	
<p>Work with Parish, Town and City Councils to support them in their application of the local standards framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop training package for Town, Parish and City Councils in conjunction with WALC; finalise and implement programme for delivery of training; monitor the take-up and effectiveness of training. • communicate regularly with Town, Parish and City Councils on standards issues e.g. through Parish newsletter. • visible presence at meetings of town, 	<p>Implement from January 2010 in accordance with agreed schedule.</p> <p>See Communications Plan.</p> <p>From January 2010</p>	<p>Ensure local, open, honest decision-making;</p> <p>Working together to support Wiltshire's communities.</p>

	<p>parish and City Councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote excellence in wider aspects of governance through membership of WALC. 	September 2010	
Inform and engage the public on standards in local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide articles related to the Code of Conduct in Wiltshire Council internal and external communications; • attend public meetings and events e.g. Local Democracy Week. • produce leaflet on making a complaint and the local assessment process for distribution throughout Wiltshire; 	<p>From now and ongoing.</p> <p>Programme of events to be drawn up for consideration at March meeting.</p> <p>February 2010</p>	<p>Ensure local, open, honest decision-making;</p> <p>Working together to support Wiltshire's communities.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Wiltshire Council web-site to ensure easy access 	Timescale to be agreed with Web-site team	
Promote standards in partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review partnership governance arrangements; incorporate agreed values and standards of behaviour in partnership documentation. 	To be agreed.	<p>Deliver high quality, low cost, customer focused services;</p> <p>Ensure local, open, honest decision-making;</p> <p>Working together to support Wiltshire's communities;</p>