

Title: **Standards Arrangements in the new Wiltshire Council**

Reporting Officer: **Tim Darsley, Monitoring Officer**

Purpose

To inform Committee of the progress and current thinking of Wiltshire County Council on Standards arrangements for the new Wiltshire Council.

Background

At its last meeting, Members considered the current remit of the County Council's Standards Committee and started to discuss how that might need to be developed to serve the new Wiltshire Council. A number of issues were identified and the Monitoring Officer was asked to raise these with County Officers and report back to the Standards Committee.

Key Issues

The Monitoring Officer met with the relevant Officer on 1 August and the development of arrangements for the new council was discussed. A summary of the main points to emerge is given at Appendix 1.

The existing roles of the Standards Committees of the County Council and West Wiltshire District Council are also given for reference.

Members will no doubt wish to consider this position. As no further consultative seminars are planned, it would seem that the next opportunity for this Committee to contribute its views on future arrangements would be in response to the proposals that are to be published in October.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Members note the County Council's current thinking on the development of Standards arrangements for the new Wiltshire Council.
2. The County Council's detailed proposals, when published, are reported to the Standards Committee for consideration and comment.

gh4sep

Standards arrangements in the new Wiltshire Council

Preparations

- WCC will publish a detailed proposal for the new council's Standards arrangements in October. Comments will be received and considered. No further seminars are planned.
- Current thoughts on size is for 16 members - 6 Wiltshire councillors and 10 independents/Town Parish members (split of these not decided).

Transition

- Existing WCC Standards Committee will remain in place into the new council.
- There will be new appointments to the additional places and to rotational vacancies on the existing Committee. This recruitment will be in January 09.
- The new appointments to the Wiltshire Standards Committee must be approved by the new Wiltshire Council. The expanded Committee will therefore not take effect until mid June 2009.
- Between 1 April and mid June, the existing County Standards Committee will be responsible for all Standards matters across Wiltshire.
- The existing WCC Standards Committee will oversee the drafting of the new Constitution for Wiltshire Council.

Terms of Reference

- Likely to be similar to that of the existing WCC Standards Committee.
- The exception is that making decisions on Stage 3 corporate complaints is likely to be dropped.
- Committee will retain overview of corporate and Ombudsman complaints.