

2 May 2012

NEW STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

Purpose of Report

1. To ask the Committee to:
 - (a) consider an initial draft code of conduct.
 - (b) note the revisions to the documents set out in the appendices to this report, as agreed at its last meeting.

Background

2. At its meeting on 18 April 2012 the Committee considered a template code of conduct produced by the Local Government Association (LGA) and an illustrative text for a code of conduct issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Copies of these documents are attached at Appendix A and B for convenience.
3. The Standards Task and Finish Group were tasked with preparing a first draft code of conduct for Wiltshire Council having regard to these documents.

MAIN ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The Constitution Focus Group and the Standards Task and Finish Group have since met to discuss the form and content of a code of conduct. A draft code has been prepared on the basis of these discussions and is attached at Appendix C.
5. The Scrutiny Member Support in the Locality Task Group met on 26 April 2012 to consider the Standards Committee's proposed arrangements under the new standards framework and the content of a code of conduct. Their views and proposed changes to the arrangements for dealing with complaints will be reported to the meeting.

6. A copy of the draft documents reflecting the changes agreed by the Committee at its last meeting are attached for the Committee's information as follows:

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints - Appendix D

(2) Terms of reference for a new standards committee - Appendix E

[No changes were made to the Job description and person specification for the independent person]

Recommendation

7. To ask the Committee:

(1) To consider the draft code of conduct at Appendix C and, subject to any changes the Committee may wish to make, to recommend this to Council for initial consideration on 15 May 2012.

(2) To note the revised documents at Appendices D and E.

(3) To consider the views of the Member Support in the Locality Task Group to be reported at the meeting.

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