
REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	15TH JUNE 2010	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	MONITORING OFFICER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee's views on the proposed Work Programme are requested.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2010/11.

4.0 Detail

4.1 A proposed Work Programme for the Committee for 2010/11 is attached at Annexe 'A'. At the last Meeting held on 14th April 2010, the Committee considered various responses for the Committee's Annual Return to Standards for England. These included negative responses on the following issues and Members will note that both are now included in the proposed Work Programme:-

- the public accessing information about how to make a complaint against a Member through a complaints leaflet available from the authority.
- a mechanism in place for measuring the satisfaction of all those involved in allegations of misconduct.

4.2 At the present time, the authority has a leaflet regarding general complaints about the authority but this does not contain the specific information on complaints against Members, which is covered extensively on the Council's website. However, the leaflet is reviewed periodically and it is suggested that at the next review, a reference should be included on the procedure for complaints against Members.

4.3 A proposed questionnaire concerning satisfaction with complaint handling is attached at Annexe 'B'. It is suggested that this should be forwarded to the complainant and

the subject Member following the decision of a Sub-Committee (Consideration) on an Investigator's report.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None.

6.0 Corporate/Community Implications

- 6.1 The inclusion of the information in the Council's complaints leaflet will raise public awareness of standards and the profile of the Committee. The questionnaire concerning satisfaction with complaint handling attempts to gather any kind of feedback from those involved in allegations about their experience of the complaints process. This is not about whether they believe the outcome of an initial assessment, investigation, or hearing was correct, but whether they feel the whole process was conducted professionally, fairly, and in a timely manner (appropriate to the complexity of the particular allegation).
- 6.2 The Council's Standards Committee plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct by councillors of South Derbyshire District Council and all the parishes in its area.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 None