Standards Committee

Standards Board for England Annual Review 2006-07

All Wards

Report authorised by: Director of Legal & Democratic Services: Mark Hynes

Executive summary


Summary of financial implications

There are no financial implications.

Recommendations

That the Standards Board for England Annual Review 2006-07, and the contents of this report, be noted.

Consultation

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<td>Allan Drew</td>
<td>for Executive Director of Strategy &amp; Corporate Services</td>
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<td>Mark Hynes</td>
<td>Director of Legal and Democratic Services</td>
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<td>Frank Higgins</td>
<td>Dept. Finance and Resources</td>
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Entered in Consultation and Events Diary? No

Report history

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Report author and contact for queries:

Mike Dickens, Head of Legal Services
020 7926 2351 mdickens@lambeth.gov.uk

Background documents

- Standards Board for England Annual Review 2006-07

Appendices

- Standards Board for England Annual Review 2006-07
1. **Context**

1.1 None.

2. **Proposals and reasons**

2.1 The SBE’s Annual Review for 2006-07 is at Appendix 1 to this report. The following summary of its Annual Review has been published on the SBE’s website, which can be found at [www.standardsboard.co.uk/publications](http://www.standardsboard.co.uk/publications):

*In the Annual Review, the SBE takes stock of its performance over the past 12 months and looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of the coming year. The key themes which the 2006-07 Annual Review addresses are the changes to the ethical system – putting responsibility for upholding standards at the heart of every local authority’s culture – and how, as the SBE, we have continued to develop our new role as a strategic regulator. It also highlights the SBE’s achievements during the year.*

2.2 The following is a brief summary of the contents of the Annual Review.

Page 4: Foreword from the Chair and Chief Executive highlighting the revised Code of Conduct and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill.

Pages 6 – 8: “Moving to our new role”, including progress with the new locally based ethical system, with over half of all cases that needed to be investigated handled locally in 2006-07.

Page 9: the SBE’s year in brief.

Pages 10-11: statistical analysis of complaints, findings, determinations and referrals.


Pages 17-19: “Ethics in Action”, summarising research projects undertaken by the SBE.

Pages 20 – 24: “Partners in Raising Standards”.

2.3 Should members of the Committee be of the opinion that any of the matters dealt with in the Annual Review would benefit from a more detailed consideration by the Committee, such items can be included in the Committee’s future work plan.

3. **Comments from Executive Director of Finance & Resources**

3.1 There are no financial implications.

4. **Comments from Director of Legal and Democratic Services**

4.1 The role and functions of the Standards Committee, as set out in Article 9 of the Council’s Constitution, are as follows:

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:
(i) To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;

(ii) To assist the Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members’ Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(iii) To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members’ Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(iv) To monitor and review the operation of the Members’ Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(v) To develop for recommendation to the Council local protocols to supplement the Members’ Code of Conduct;

(vi) To enforce local protocols and apply sanctions in respect of breaches as appropriate;

(vii) To advise, train or arrange to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members’ Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(viii) To grant dispensations to Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members’ Code of Conduct and associated local protocols;

(ix) To deal with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer;

(x) To keep under review, amend and make additional provisions to the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations;

(xi) To monitor the Officers’ Code of Conduct to ensure consistent application and enforcement Council-wide; and

(xii) The general overview of probity matters arising from Ombudsman reports, Monitoring Officer reports and Audit Commission reports.

Article 9 also states: “The Standards Committee may in the future develop its role as it reviews and revises the Members’ Code of Conduct and considers any other responsibilities to oversee any matters that relate to maintaining and promoting high standards within the Council.”

5. Results of consultation

5.1 Not applicable.
6. Organisational implications

6.1 Risk management:
None.

6.2 Equalities impact assessment:
Not applicable.

6.3 Community safety implications:
None.

6.4 Environmental implications:
None.

6.5 Staffing and accommodation implications:
None.

6.6 Any other implications:
None.

7 Timetable for implementation

7.1 Not applicable.

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