

Standards Committee – 12th April, 2010

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Standards For England - Review of the Local Standards Framework

Purpose of Report

1. To receive and invite comments on the Executive Summary and recommendations contained in the review of the local standards framework published by Standards for England in March, 2010.

Background

2. During March, 2010, Standards for England published the document “Local Standards 2.0 – the proportionality upgrade? A review of the local standards framework.”
3. For the purpose of the review, Standards for England collected opinions from a range of stakeholders and assessed this alongside findings from its research programmes and evidence from cases. Research material was also drawn from the monitoring of local authorities’ standards work and from advice and guidance given to Councils.
4. Standards for England have also taken the opportunity to consider the principles which ought to underpin the operation of the local framework, and taken them into account in making proposals for change and improvement. Standards for England are of the view that these changes, if implemented, will help to achieve outcomes the public can have confidence in, namely:
 - high standards of behaviour among members of English local authorities
 - an effective, proportionate redress system
5. Standards for England believe that the recommendations from the review are timely and will help to refine how the local standards framework is working and provide a basis for future development.
6. Attached is the Executive Summary of the Standards for England report along with the recommendations contained in the document. A full copy of the report is available on the Council’s Website (via the Committee Management Information System) and on the Standards for England Website. A hard copy can be provided on request to Democratic Services (01384 815235).

Finance

7. There are no direct additional financial implications arising from this report at this stage. Any additional implications arising from the recommendations would be the subject of a further report as and when necessary.

Law

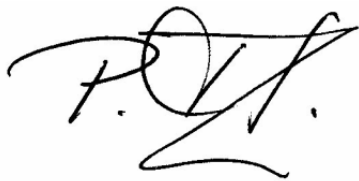
8. The relevant legislation regarding the local standards framework is contained in Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Equality Impact

9. This report raises no additional issues with regard to this Council's policies and commitment to equality and diversity in respect of the administration of the local standards framework.

Recommendation

10. The views of the Standards Committee are invited on the attached Executive Summary and recommendations concerning the Standards for England review of the local standards framework.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Tart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Philip Tart
Monitoring Officer

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Background Papers

Attached