

**Standards Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Local Investigations and Other Action**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the updated guidance on local investigations and other action issued by the Standards Board for England.

**Background**

2. In June 2008 the Standards Board for England issued its updated guidance on local investigations and other action. The guidance is attached at Appendix 1.
3. The guidance reflects the changes introduced by the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. In particular the following issues are highlighted:-
  - the Monitoring Officer should act as the main adviser to the Standards Committee and, therefore, investigations should be carried out by another officer e.g. the Deputy Monitoring Officer;
  - information obtained during an investigation must remain confidential at least until the investigation is completed;
  - in appropriate cases (e.g. an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution) an investigation may be deferred.
4. To date in Dudley we have only had 1 local investigation and determination and the then guidance issued by the Standards Board for England proved to be very useful and I am sure that the updated guidance will be of equal value should it be required.

**Finance**

5. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Law**

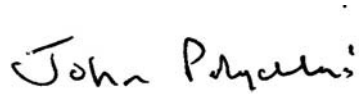
6. The relevant legislation regarding the Code of Conduct is contained in Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

## **Equality Impact**

7. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity and there are no particular implications for children and young people.

## **Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that this report be noted.



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**J. Polychronakis.**  
Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: John Polychronakis.  
Telephone: 01384 (81)5300  
Email: john.polychronakis@dudley.gov.uk

## **List of Background Papers**

None.