

	
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	25 June 2010
Report of the Monitoring Officer	

Future of the Current Standards Regime

Summary

1. The new Government proposes to abolish “the Standards Board regime”. It is unclear what this will mean in practice.

Background

2. The Government announced in the Queen’s Speech that the proposed Decentralisation and Localism bill will include proposals to ‘abolish the Standards Board regime’.
3. The precise scope of the proposals is not yet known and until legislation is past the Standards Committee will continue to perform its statutory roles of promoting high standards of ethical conduct and dealing with complaints that the Code of Conduct has been breached.
4. In the light of this announcement Standards for England has also announced the cancellation of this year’s annual assembly.

Corporate Priorities

5. The Standards Committee’s management of the local assessment framework contributes to its key role in maintaining high ethical standards. This in turn is an essential part of the ‘Effective Organisation’ strand of the Corporate Strategy. Effective ethical governance is a key aspect of corporate governance overall which is an important priority for the Council.

Recommendations

6. That the Standards Committee ask the Monitoring Officer to keep it apprised of further developments.

Reason: In order to ensure that the Committee can prepare for any changes to its role and continue to support the City and Parish Councils in maintaining high standards of ethical conduct.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	√	Date 07/06/2010
Specialist Implications Officer(s) <i>None.</i>			
Wards Affected: <i>List wards or tick box to indicate all</i>		√	

Background Papers:

All relevant background papers must be listed here.

Letter from Standards for England dates 1st June 2010