

**TITLE OF REPORT: UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND WORK PROGRAMME**

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To update the members on the Work Programme agreed by the Standards Committee and other outstanding matters.

**2. FORWARD PLAN**

- 2.1 This report does not contain matters referred to in the Forward Plan.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following the ongoing approval of the Work Programme by the Standards Committee, the Monitoring Officer considers it appropriate to ensure that the Committee continues to be updated on progress, changes in priority and matters outstanding.

**4. ISSUES**

**4.1 *Work Programme***

- 4.1.1 The amended and updated Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 Members are requested to review and add to the work programme at each meeting of the Committee.
- 4.1.3 The Standards Committee is requested to consider and approve this.

**4.2 *The future of the Standards Regime***

- 4.2.1 Members will have noted the previous Agenda Item 5 in relation to Changes to the Standards Regime.

**4.3 *Training***

- 4.3.1 Training will be arranged relating to the Localism Act, and it is proposed that this will be arranged for the new civic year. In addition further detailed training will need to follow in relation specifically to the Standards changes both prior to, and after implementation, depending on need and demand.

#### **4.4 *Revision of the Constitution***

- 4.4.1 The Monitoring Officer is the guardian of the Constitution and must ensure that it adequately reflects the governance arrangements of the Council.
- 4.4.2 The Report considering the proposed amendments to the Constitution will be before Council for consideration at the meeting on 12 April 2012.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Legal implications will be dealt with when each of the work programme matters are brought back to the Committee.

#### **6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None.

#### **8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

- 8.1 None, although clerks of the parish councils will receive copies of this report.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That Members note the updates in this report and review and agree the work programme.
- 9.2 That Members provide to the Monitoring Officer comment in relation to Paragraph 4.3.1 above, regarding training on changes to the Standards Framework coming forward as part of the Localism Act.

#### **10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure good governance within the Council.

#### **11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 11.1 None.

#### **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 Appendix 1: Work Programme.
- 12.2 Appendix 2: Part 2 Update on Code of Conduct Complaint Handling – TO FOLLOW.

#### **13. CONTACT OFFICERS**

- 13.1 Katie White x 4315  
Katie.white@north-herts.gov.uk  
Monitoring Officer