

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 MARCH 2006

UPDATE ON STANDARDS ISSUES

Report from: Peter Holland, Committee Co-ordinator

Author: Mark Bowen, Assistant Director (Legal and Property Services)

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members on developments relating to the work of the committee.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the committee notes the oral report by the chair of the committee on the Kent and Medway Independent Members of Standards Committees Group.

2.2 That members note the other matters arising on this report.

3 DECISION ISSUES

3.1 The constitution gives the Standards Committee a key role in ensuring good practice across the authority.

4 KENT AND MEDWAY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES GROUP

4.1 As has previously been discussed the chair of this committee is the Secretary to the above group. The chair will update the committee on issues arising at recent meetings of this group at the meeting on 1 March.

5 5TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

5.1 Members should note that the dates for the 5th Annual Assembly of Standards Committee have been set for Monday/Tuesday, 16/17 October 2006. Consideration will be given to representation from Medway at a later date. However, members who are interested should note the indicative dates.

6 PARISH LIAISON

6.1 The latest in a series of parish liaison meetings took place on Wednesday, 15 February 2006. The meeting was well attended with only two apologies for absence being received from parish clerks. In addition to a range of

information sharing and code of conduct issues, the meeting specifically looked at establishing protocols for parish councils dealing with planning matters and a copy of a report which was discussed at that meeting appears on this agenda for discussion by the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 16 May 2006 and will be hosted by St. James, Isle of Grain Parish Council.

7 RESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 The committee is formally advised that Medway Council's Monitoring Officer will be leaving the services of Medway Council on 31 March 2006 to take up a Director's post at another authority. The recruitment process for a replacement is at an advanced stage and if appropriate dates on interim arrangements will be given at the meeting.

8. COMPLAINTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 8.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any complaints against Medway or Parish councillors having been made to the Standards Board for England.

9 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal implications are set out in the report. In the event of attendance at the 5th Annual Assembly then, costs of members attending would need to be met from the members training budget.

Background Papers

None.

Lead officer contact

Name; Mark Bowen
Job Title Assistant Director, Legal, Contract and Property Services
Telephone: 01634 332133 Email: mark.bowen@medway.gov.uk