

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2007

## REVISION OF INVESTIGATION & LOCAL DETERMINATION PROCEDURES

Report from: Deborah Upton, Monitoring Officer

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### 1 Summary

1.1 The Committee is asked to agree that the Monitoring Officer use the Standards Board for England guidance when conducting an investigation referred to her from them.

### 2 Decision issues

2.1 The Committee is asked to decide whether to agree to use the Standards Board guidance set out in Appendix 1.

### 3 Background

3.1 The Standards Committee on 8 June 2005 agreed the procedure by which the Monitoring Officer would undertake the investigation of complaints referred to them by the Standards Board. In addition, they agreed the procedure for local determination of allegations. Both documents are attached as Appendix One.

3.2 Subsequent to the procedures being agreed, the Standards Board issued its own guidance on how to conduct local investigations, and on local determination. The guidance conflicts in some areas with the procedures adopted by the Standards Committee. The guidance is attached as Appendix 1.

### 4 Current Position

4.1 The Monitoring Officer considers that the Standards Board guidance should be followed throughout an investigation, and that the procedures should be amended to follow the guidance. This will ensure that anyone involved in the process can be clear as to what action will be taken, and minimise any risk of challenge.

## **5 Financial implications**

5.1 None.

## **6 Legal implications**

6.1 These are set out in the main body of the report.

## **7 Recommendations**

7.1 That the Standards Committee agree that the Monitoring Officer amend the procedures to reflect the guidance issued by the Standards Board, and that the revised procedures be circulated to members of the Committee when completed.

### **Lead officer contact**

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