

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 10th September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Standards Board Information Roundup

WARDS N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To bring Members of the Committee up to date with the latest news from the Standards Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A copy of Bulletin 39, released since the last meeting of the Committee, is attached at Appendix 1. In particular, Members' attention is brought to the following:

3.1.1 The Standards Board will no longer publish summaries of completed investigations on their website. Instead, quarterly statistics about cases handled across the country will be produced. In addition, the Board intends to compile an annual report highlighting notable practice in local case handling.

3.1.2 New guidance has been published to support local authorities in the implementation of the local framework.

3.1.3 Dr Robert Chilton has been appointed as the new Chair of the Standards Board for England with effect from 1 July 2008 for a three year term.

3.2 In addition, two press releases are attached for information at Appendix 2. These provide details of an investigation in Cornwall that resulted in the disqualification of two Members for a twelve month period, and outline the initial impact of the local filtering system on local authorities across the country.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** – None.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** – None.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – None.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – None.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 No key issues have been identified which require control measures.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.