

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 24th February 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Standards for England Round Up

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 Standards for England.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of this Committee, Standards for England has released Bulletin 46 which is attached at Appendix 1 and can be accessed by the following link
www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/media/Bulletin%2046.pdf
- 3.2 Members will be interested to note that the Bulletin does not make any reference to the proposed revised Code of Conduct for Members, which had been anticipated in late Autumn 2009.
- 3.3 Members' attention is drawn to a section in the Bulletin dealing with pre-determination and bias which offers some guidance on tricky areas. It is also interesting to note that the Adjudication Panel for England has recently looked at the relationship between the Code of Conduct and pre-determination and given an indication that where such issues arise, there is a potential breach of paragraph 5 of the Code, which is likely to depend on individual circumstances. It is felt by Standards for England that by and large pre-determination will not amount to a personal or prejudicial interest.
- 3.4 Reference is made to sessions at the Annual Assembly in October 2009 on local assessment. A number of thorny issues brought out by Members and monitoring officers are recorded, and the document concludes by pointing out that Standards for England are currently undertaking a review of the Local Standards Framework and information gathered from the sessions will feed into the process.
- 3.5 The Bulletin also draws Members' attention to the third edition of the Government's Toolkit for Parish and Town Council's which is now available to download.

3.6 The final section of the Bulletin provides an update on the transfer of the Adjudication Panel for England into the unified tribunal structure.

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 The report of itself does not contain specific Equality and Diversity issues.

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

9.1 None.