

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 24th February 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: On Line Guides to the Code of Conduct

WARDS: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of the recent issue of on-line guides, dealing with Independent Members, Freemasons and the Code of Conduct and notifications to Parish and Town Councils concerning complaints about their Members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Members are reminded of the existence of helpful on-line guides which can be found at www.standardsforendland.gov.uk dealing with a number of aspects of the Code of Conduct.

3.2 Since the last meeting, three guides have been published and the summaries are contained in the appendix to this report.

3.3 The first deals with independent Members and reminds Councils of the method of recruitment. Members are reminded that Independent Members cannot be automatically re-appointed at the conclusion of their term of office and there must be a recruitment process brought into effect in each case when the terms of office expire.

3.4 The second guide deals with Freemasons and their relationship to the Code of Conduct.

3.5 The third of the guides deals with notification to Parish and Town Councils concerning complaints about their Members and provides details as to which information should be provided to Parishes, the purpose of notifications and what action should be taken by Parishes once notification is received. Obviously, the monitoring officer is happy to provide relevant advice in appropriate circumstances.

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.