

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 7 November 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

SUBJECT: The Committee on Standards in Public Life

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Leader

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the recent publication of the Annual Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and subsequent correspondence between the Committee and the Secretary of State.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life has recently published its Annual Report reflecting on its work and standards issues during 2011/12. This includes its reflections on the changes to the local framework. A copy of the Report is attached as Appendix A.

3.2 The Committee wrote to the Secretary of State Eric Pickles on 28th June expressing reservations that the new local standards arrangements would enhance public confidence. They expressed particular concern about the diminution of the independent role, the lack of effective sanctions and the short time period Councils had been given to implement the new arrangements. The letter is attached as Appendix B, and the reply of the Secretary of State is at Appendix C.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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 HALTONS URBAN RENEWAL

None.

7.00 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

None.