

**REPORT TO:** Standards Committee

**DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy

**SUBJECT:** Standards Board Information 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 the Standards Board.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Report be noted.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of the Committee, the Standards Board has released bulletin 44 which is attached at Appendix one and can be accessed by following link –  
<http://www.standardsboard.gov.uk/publications/thebulletin>

The bulletin reports that the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) Regulations 2009 came into force on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Separate reports appear elsewhere on this Agenda dealing with the establishment of joint Standards Committees, and the powers of the Standard Board for England to suspend Standards Committees' assessment and review functions.

The bulletin also contains a section dealing with changes to the criteria for granting dispensation to Members who would otherwise be unable to take part in authority business because of a prejudicial interest. An overview of the position and a link to the guidance are contained within the bulletin. It is for the Standards Committee itself to decide what criteria they will apply when considering a request. A request must be made by a Member in writing, and there is no right of appeal from the Standards Committee's decision. The Committee can decide on the nature and length of time of a dispensation, or although it cannot be longer than four years.

The bulletin also contains articles on support for the Code of Conduct, the impact and effectiveness of the ethical frame work in local government, the impact of quarterly returns after one year of operation, and the revised guidance recently issued by the Local Government Association on Good Planning Practice.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATION**

5.1 None

#### **6.0 IMPLIATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and young people in Halton** – None

6.2 **Employment and Learning 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**