ITEM 5



STANDARDS COMMITTEE 21 OCTOBER 2005

Report of the Director of Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer

Annual Report - June 2004 to May 2005

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the Annual Report 2004/05.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Committee met on four occasions during the municipal year 2004/05:
 - 2 August 2004 14 October 2004 5 January 2005 15 April 2005
- 2.2 During the course of the year the Committee made recommendations to the Council on the adoption of a new Planning Protocol. Recommendations were also made on guidance to be issued to members on ICT related issues..
 - The recommended protocol and guidance were accepted by Council without amendment.
- 2.3 Consideration was given to Regulations which came into force in November 2004, enabling ethical standards officers to ask monitoring officers to investigate misconduct allegations. Monitoring officers then are to arrange for their own Standards Committees to determine whether there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct and, if so, what penalty to apply. A procedure for the processes involved was agreed.
- 2.4 The Committee reviewed the programme for ethical training for councillors and noted that a formal course took place in September 2004.
- 2.5 The Committee considered a consultation paper of revisions to the members' Code of Conduct. Responses were sent to the Standards Board to the specific questions they asked.
- 2.6 The Committee also acted on two separate occasions as the final stage of the Council's internal complaints process. Both cases involved planning matters and resulted in a series of recommendations being made to the Planning Control Committee and planning officers.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. None

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Background papers: None

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications