

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Standards Committee Draft Work Programme 2014/15</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Standards Committee on 25 March 2014
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

That the Standards Committee will identify priorities and topics for its Work Programme for the 2014/15 municipal year. The Work Programme will help to inform members of the public of items that the Standards Committee is due to consider at forthcoming meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Standards Committee:

- 1) notes the report;
- 2) considers key themes and individual issues it would like to consider during 2014/15;
- 3) agrees the draft Standards Committee Work Programme 2014/15 (attached Appendix A);

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report sets out the draft work programme for the Standards Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year together with clarification of the role and remit of the Committee.

## **Background**

The Standards Committee has the following roles and functions:-

- a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members, including church and parent governor representatives;
- b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted members, including church and parent governor representatives, to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of its Members' Code of Conduct;
- d) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct, the Officers' Code of Conduct and the Council's Whistleblowing policy and any other appropriate codes of conduct and procedures;
- e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- f) the exercise of (a) to (e) above in relation to the parish/town councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish/town councils;
- g) the presentation of an annual report by the Chairman of the Standards Committee to Council.

### **Draft Work Programme 2014/15**

The Standards Committee may review any matter relating to the above scope. The Committee is scheduled to meet four times in 2014/15. With such a relatively broad remit one of the biggest challenges for the Committee, in deciding its work programme for the new municipal year, will be prioritising items for consideration.

When looking at potential items for its work programme, the Committee should consider to what extent it will have an impact on residents; whether it is a widespread issue (e.g. affecting more than one ward) and what value the Standards Committee can add by looking at the item. The limited support resources available should also be taken into account.

A Draft Work Programme for 2014/15 has been produced (Appendix A) for the Committee to consider. Members should decide whether there are any additional items which they feel should be programmed.

The work programme is an evolving document and items can be added or removed should matters of higher priority emerge.

### **Standing items**

The Committee currently receives the following standing item:

- Update on Member Code of Conduct complaints

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	NA/

#### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

#### Cross-Council Implications

N/A

#### Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

#### List of Background Papers

N/A

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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**Work Programme 2014/15 from June 2014**

**Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice.**

*The order in which items are listed at this stage may not reflect the order they subsequently appear on the agenda / are dealt with at the meeting.*

**All Meetings start at 7pm in the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, unless otherwise stated.**

DATE OF MEETING	ITEMS	PURPOSE OF REPORT AND REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	REPORTING OFFICER AND OFFICER CONTACT	COMMENTS
Thursday 19 June 2014	Update on Member Code of Conduct Complaints	To receive an update on member code of conduct complaints	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance & Improvement Services	
	Standards Committee Annual Report	General update and review of the Annual Report for submission to July Council	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance & Improvement Services	
	Training Programme on Member Code of Conduct	To receive an update on the arrangements for training on Member Code of Conduct matters	Mary Severin, Borough Solicitor	
	Work Programme		Democratic Services	

DATE OF MEETING	ITEMS	PURPOSE OF REPORT AND REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	REPORTING OFFICER AND OFFICER CONTACT	COMMENTS
Wednesday 3 September 2014	Update on Member Code of Conduct Complaints	To receive an update on member code of conduct complaints	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance & Improvement Services	
	Member Officer Protocol	To receive an update on the operation of the protocol	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance & Improvement Services	
	Work Programme		Democratic Services	
Wednesday 3 December 2014	Update on Member Code of Conduct Complaints	To receive an update on member code of conduct complaints	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance & Improvement Services	
	Work Programme		Democratic Services	
Wednesday 18 March 2015	Update on Member Code of Conduct Complaints	To receive an update on member code of conduct complaints	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance & Improvement Services	
	Work Programme		Democratic Services	