

ITEM NO: 4

REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	14 June 2011
REPORT OF:	Sandra Stewart - Borough Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
SUBJECT MATTER:	MEMBERSHIP 2011/12 AND TERMS OF REFERENCE
REPORT SUMMARY:	The attached report provides details of the Membership of the Standards Committee and its Terms of Reference.
RECOMMENDATION(S)	Members are asked to note the content of the report.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Treasurer)	There are no significant financial issues arising from this report.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	There are no significant legal issues arising from this report.
RISK MANAGEMENT:	The Standards Committee is key in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct within the Council and arising from the Council's business.
LINKS TO COMMUNITY PLAN:	Support the current arrangements for ethical and corporate governance of the Authority to ensure that the public can have confidence in accountability of Elected Members and the maintenance of high ethical standards.
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	NON-CONFIDENTIAL This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Sandra Stewart, the Council's Borough Solicitor and statutory Monitoring Officer by:  Telephone: 0161 342 3028  e-mail: Sandra.Stewart@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At Tameside, the Standards Committee meets four times a year. It comprises eight members and two substitutes (two Local Authority Members, four independents and two Town Councillor representatives) and appoints an independent Chair at the start of each municipal year.
- 1.2 As well as ensuring appropriate conduct on the part of Members, the Standards Committee has improved the profile of standards of public service within the wider Authority and helped to develop understanding of high ethical governance. This was noted and highly commended by the Audit Commission during the Corporate Performance Assessment inspections who praised the relationship between good governance, high ethical standards and excellent performance of service delivery.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2011/12

- 2.1 The Chair of the Standards Committee is Mrs Valerie Bracken. The other members of the Committee are:
- Mrs Jacqueline Barnes;
 - Mr David Berry;
 - Mossley Town Council Representative required under the relevant regulations – to be notified by the Parish Council;
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 - Reverend Dennis Thomas;
 - Councillor Joe Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, and nominated substitute Councillor Susan Quinn;
 - Councillor John Bell, Leader of the Opposition, and nominated substitute Councillor Derek Baines.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 The Standards Committee will have the following terms of reference:
- promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-opted members and church and Parent Governor Representatives;
 - assisting the Councillors and Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - granting dispensations to Councillors and Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by an Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer.
 - the exercise of points 1 to 7 above in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those Parish Councils.
 - overview of the Council's policies and standards of conduct and ethics.
 - such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by law.

The Standards Committee will scrutinise Parish Council functions.