

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**2 MAY 2012**

### **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 2011/2012**

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to secure Council's approval to the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2011/12.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2011/12 be approved.

### **DETAIL**

1. Reports on performance are an important part of the Council's monitoring, reporting and planning procedures.
2. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2011/12
3. The Report provides an overview of the work of the Committee in the past year. It sets out the Committee's main Statutory responsibilities, and summarises how they have been discharged. The Report has been prepared in the context of the significant changes proposed to the national and local standards regime, as set out in the Localism Act. These changes are anticipated to become effective from 1 July onwards. If that proves to be the case, the Committee will cease to operate on 30 June.
4. Council is asked to consider and approve the Report.
5. Consultation on the Report has previously taken place with Group Leaders and the relevant Cabinet Member; the Head of Legal Services as Deputy Monitoring Officer; the Head of Democratic Services; the Corporate Governance Group and the Corporate Management Team. The report has also been circulated to Audit Committee Members. Once agreed the Report will be placed on the intranet and the internet for the attention of all Members/Officers and will be made available to Town/Parish Councils.
6. Cabinet considered the Report at its meeting on 19 April 2012 and recommended to Council that the Standards Committee's Annual Report be approved.

7. The report to Cabinet is accessible at <http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=94&cmte=CAB&grpId=public&arc=71> and the relevant Cabinet minute is attached as **Appendix 2** to this item.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

8. None specified as a result of this item.

### **Legal**

9. Similarly, none arising directly from this item.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

10. Matters identified in the Committee's Annual Report are assessed separately. This item is a low risk category.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

11. Effective corporate and ethical governance is critical to an authority's performance and to demonstrating continuous improvement. Probity and high standards are an inherent part of corporate/ethical governance, Law and Democracy's Service Plan and the Council Plan. This will continue to be the case even after the Localism Act's proposals have been implemented. The Annual Report and the work of the Standards Committee are concerned with such governance in all of its aspects.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

12. The Annual Report has not been subject to an assessment. The Report reflects what has occurred during 2011/12.

## **CONSULTATION**

13. The Annual Report has been produced in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, by and on behalf of the Committee itself, and as specified in paragraph 5 of this item.

### **Director of Law & Democracy**

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	The Annual Report attached
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None