

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

ANNUAL REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2010/11

1 SUMMARY

This report summarises information relating to 2010/11 about complaints dealt with by the Standards for England, the local determination regime, "whistleblowing" cases and the work of the Committee during the year.

2 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Committee is asked to note the report.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The terms of reference of the Standards Committee require the Monitoring Officer to submit a report on the above matters.

3.2 This is the sixth report produced for the Standards Committee.

4 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

None.

5 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Agenda and minutes of the Standards Committee 17 May 2010, 21 June 2010, 8 November 2010, 20 December 2010 and 18 February 2011.

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6 July 2011

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**ANNUAL REPORT TO STANDARDS
COMMITTEE**

2010/11

July 2011

1 Introduction

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Standards Committee this report relates to the work of the Monitoring Officer and this Committee for 2010/11 covering conduct and propriety issues, and covers complaints about Members' conduct, "Whistleblowing" complaints and the work of the Standards Committee.

Glen O'Connell was the Council's Monitoring Officer during the period.

2 Complaints about Members' Conduct

During the year 2010/11 the new Code of Conduct was in operation.

An Ethical Standards Officer commenced an investigation of one City Council case during 2009/10 and concluded it during 2010/11, with a finding of a breach of the Code concerning registration of interests.

At a local level, two cases were investigated under the local determination regime. One has been referred to, and is awaiting, a local hearing; the other was considered at a local hearing which resulted in findings of several breaches of the Code.

3 Confidential Reporting Code - Whistleblowing

Two whistleblowing cases were initiated during the year, and are still being investigated.

Internal Audit have worked on improved accessibility of the Code via the intranet and internet and have created a central database for complaints.

4 Other Work

- (a) The Council was approached to participate in national research on the development of possible linkages with the work of Standards Committees and Overview and Scrutiny work. In view of subsequent developments, at a national level, on the future of the Standards regime, this was not progressed.
- (b) Consideration of the future of the Standards regime and any possible successor models.
- (c) Assistance to the Police Authority on governance and probity issues.
- (d) Participation in the City Council's Members' Development Charter bid.

5 The work of the Standards Committee

The Standards Committee met on the following dates during the year:

17 May 2010
21 June 2010
8 November 2010
20 December 2010
18 February 2011

In addition to local determination regime work, the following issues were considered by the Committee during the year:-

- (a) Future of the Standards regime
- (b) Government consultation on the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority publicity.

6 Forthcoming Work

The following work is anticipated for 2011/12, or has already been carried out in the year:-

- (a) responding to national developments on the future of the Standards regime, and consideration of future local arrangements;
- (b) review of the City Council's constitution, including terms of reference of the Committee and wider work on improving corporate governance;
- (c) development work to improve prominence and accessibility of whistleblowing procedures and the local determination regime managed by this Committee;
- (d) training and development work for members of the Committee, and refresher training;
- (e) training and development work for inclusion within the induction programme for all new councillors following the May 2011 City Council elections.

7 Conclusion

This is the sixth annual report produced for the Standards Committee.

It is an opportunity to communicate the essential role and work of both the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee as part of the wider governance arrangements of the Council.

Mr D Hibbert, Chair of the Standards Committee
Mr G O'Connell, Monitoring Officer