

**DRAFT  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2006 – APRIL 2007**

The Committee is now meeting four times a year.

**1. MEMBERSHIP**

Following council elections in May we welcomed Councillor David Prince replacing Councillor Martin Hale whose services to the committee were greatly valued. We also were pleased to have Stewart Fowler representing the Parish Councils on the Committee. He replaced David Hall following his election as a Councillor. We are deeply grateful that David was with us from the commencement of the Committee, his advice and wise counsel on the work of the parishes was invaluable.

**2. ACTIVITIES**

- The Chairman and Monitoring Officer have visited all five Parishes during the year.

The commitment and dedication of Parish Councillors is impressive and the local populace appear to be well served.

- We have a work plan (copy attached) which we have shared with the Leader(s) and the Chief Executive each of whom has made constructive suggestions for issues which are appropriate for us to consider.

- Activity within the Council has presented us with issues which have overtaken our original priorities, but our aim is to have a flexible plan which can respond to identified problem areas and reposition our priorities.

**3. ISSUES CONSIDERED**

- a Planning Code of Conduct for Members - considered by the Council and agreed
- a Code for members appointed by the Council to outside bodies- considered by councillors and awaiting approval by the full Council-
- draft government proposals to amend the Code of Conduct – subject to consultation until 9.3.07
- reviews of reports from the Local Government Ombudsman
- we regularly review reports of complaints considered by the Standards Board. These provide valuable insight into the way hearings are conducted and outcomes determined

#### **4. UNDER CONSIDERATION**

- a Member / Officer protocol –proposals to be subject to consultation before recommending to Council

#### **5. OTHER ISSUES**

- We have considered two matters concerning councillors, one referred to the Standards Board who recommended no action

The other was referred through the Monitoring Officer. The Committee decided to write to the Councillor concerned identifying potential risks in relation to the Code of Practice.

- Two Independent members complete their appointed term this year and a recruitment programme is being prepared.
- A well attended forum was held in Cheltenham for Independent Members from the county.

The sessions concerned the issues which Standards Committee members were likely to face and the role of Independent Members in processing these issues. The Forum was excellently led by Peter Keith Lucas and all present greatly benefited from the experience and opportunity to meet and confer.

This is my final report as Chairman of your Standards Committee  
The support of the Council and its officers throughout the seven years are greatly appreciated. It was a very high learning curve for us all and particularly myself and the patience and cooperation of everyone concerned has made this a very memorable and satisfying experience

The Standards Committee commends this report to the Council

**Pamela Hudson-Bendersky CBE**  
**Chairman April 2007**