

**Open Report on behalf of David O'Connor, Assistant Chief Executive**

Report to:	<b>County Council</b>
Date:	<b>21 May 2010</b>
Subject:	<b>Standards Committee Annual Report</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to present the County Council with the fifth Annual Report from the Standards Committee. A copy of the Annual Report is at Appendix A.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the County Council notes the fifth Annual Report from the Standards Committee.

**1. Background**

Following guidance from the Standards Board for England, and by way of complying with best practice, it was agreed in 2006 that the County Council's Standards Committee should prepare and present an annual report of its activities over the previous Council year to the Annual Meeting of the Council. The first such report went to full Council in May 2006. As a result of recent legislation, it is now mandatory for such annual reports to be produced.

The report highlights a number of key themes and activities over the last year, namely:-

- *Training and Development (eg:- on Other Action; Bias & Predetermination)*
- *Inspecting the Register of Member Interests*
- *Developing/Amending Protocols*
- *Liaison/co-operation with the Audit Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee ("Working Together")*
- *Liaison/co-operation with other standards committees in the county*
- *Production of a Standards Training and Development Manual*

In addition, the Council had a strong presence at the eighth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees held in Birmingham in October 2009. Not only did four members of the Committee and the Head of Corporate Standards attend the two-day event, but the Committee Chairman was both a member of the Conference Steering Committee and led a workshop at the Assembly and the Council's

Executive Director (Resources and Community Safety) gave a keynote address to one of the Assembly's plenary sessions.

## 2. Conclusion

The Report covers the period May 2009- May 2010. The Committee's work programme for that council year is included at the end of the Report.

### 3. Legal Comments:

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local standards committees are now required to produce annual reports to their councils. Previously best practice and guidance strongly advised such committees to do so. Producing an annual report should both help raise the profile of the committee and assist others in understanding its role and functions.

### 4. Resource Comments:

n/a

## 5. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

### c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

### d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	(To be circulated) Standards Committee Annual Report 2010
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## 7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Steven Ratcliffe, who can be contacted on 01522 552114 or [steven.ratcliffe@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:steven.ratcliffe@lincolnshire.gov.uk).