



**AGENDA ITEM: 8**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:  
3 June 2010**

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**Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor**

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LOCAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise Members that Standards for England (SfE) have published its review of the local government standards framework, entitled 'Local Standards 2.0 – The Proportionality Upgrade?'.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the contents of this report be noted and members be advised of future developments in due course.

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**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Standards for England have undertaken a review of the local government standards framework and have produced its conclusions in a document entitled 'Local Standards 2.0 – The Proportionality Upgrade?'

3.2 The review concludes that the standards framework is working and is having a positive influence on member behaviour, and that there was considerable support from local government for the arrangements to regulate member behaviour. SfE also accept that the system has been a burden on some authorities and that the framework locks complaints into an inflexible process.

3.3 The report has now been submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government with a number of recommendations which can be found in the attached report at Appendix 1. Some of the recommendations would require changes to the law, others can, if agreed, be implemented through clearer guidance.

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial or resource implications in respect of this report.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

6.1 This report is for information only.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

#### **Appendices**

1. Standards for England - 'Local Standards 2.0 – The Proportionality Upgrade?'