



AGENDA ITEM: 10

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
30 November 2010**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

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**SUBJECT: VISITS TO BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – ANNUAL
FEEDBACK**

Borough wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive feedback on visits being undertaken by Members of the Standards Committee to Borough and Parish Council meetings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the current position in relation to visits to Borough and Parish Council meetings be noted and Members give informal feedback on their visits to date.

2.2 That such visits be suspended and further consideration be given to future visits once the Government's intention for the Standards regime becomes clear.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In order to be proactive in its work the Standards Committee agreed to undertake a series of visits to Borough and Parish Council meetings.

3.2 It was agreed that Members of the Committee would initially attend up to four meetings as observers, preferably in pairs, with the intent that this would increase their understanding of the way Councils are operating in West Lancashire, conduct at meetings and also to raise the profile of the Standards Committee. Members would then informally feedback into a general discussion on their visits on an annual basis.

3.3 Members of the Committee felt that when visits were undertaken by individual members to Parish Council meetings, that Parish Clerks should be asked to supply copies of agendas and minutes of that meeting. It was also considered important that Parish Councils should be advised that these were not formal inspection visits and were being used to enable members of the Committee to

gain an understanding of how Parish Council meetings are operating and to raise the profile of the Standards Committee.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

4.1 There are no significant sustainability/community strategy implications arising from this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The co-ordination of visits will be resourced from existing budgets.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 A proactive Standards Committee will ensure high ethical standards are promoted within West Lancashire.

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

Schedule of visits to meetings of Borough and Parish Council meetings, by Standards Committee Members.