

Subject: Localism Bill Update
Date of Meeting: 29 March 2011
Report of: Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer: Name: Liz Woodley Tel: 29-1509
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the House of Commons Committee stage of the Localism Bill in so far as it relates to Standards, and recommends the setting up of a Working Group to consider issues arising from the Bill

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- (1) notes the report, and
- (2) appoints a Working Group comprising at least one independent member and a representative of each political group.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 At the previous meeting in January, the Committee received a brief report outlining the provisions of the Localism Bill in so far as they related to standards. The Bill is progressing through its Committee stage in the House of Commons, and this report seeks to update Members on its progress.
- 3.2 None of the clauses of the Bill relating to Standards issues was amended at the Committee Stage. Assuming that the Bill is ultimately enacted as originally drafted, there will no longer be a requirement for all local authorities to have a Standards Committee or a Code of Conduct. It will however be possible to have either or both on a voluntary basis. Members of the council's Governance and Standards Committee have indicated that they are in favour of both a voluntary committee and a Code of Conduct. It is therefore proposed that a Working Group, comprising at least one independent Member and a representative of each political group be established to further consider this. It is further proposed that the Group reports its progress to the Committee at its June meeting.

3.3 It will be for the Group to determine its own agenda, but it could consider Terms of Reference, composition and quorum of a voluntary Standards Committee and the content of a Code of Conduct.

4. CONSULTATION:

4.1 The independent Chairman of the Committee and Monitoring Officer have been consulted and support the establishment of a Working Group.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 8 March 2011

Legal Implications:

5.2 There are none.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 8 March 2011

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There are no equalities implications.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 There are no crime and disorder implications.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 There are none.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 There are none.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. None.

