STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 58

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Code of recommended practice on local authority

publicity

Date of Meeting: 3 March 2009

Report of: Monitoring Officer

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report brings to the Committee's attention a recent consultation paper, "Communities in control: Real people, real power Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity" issued by CLG, inviting comments on the future of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Members consider the proposed response as set out in appendix 2 as appropriate.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The White Paper, "Communities in control: Real people, real power" was about passing power into the hands of local communities. The paper, "Communities in control: Real people, real power Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity" is the next in a series consulting on a number of policy commitments. It invites views on the content of the Publicity Code as an instrument for protecting public money while allowing councils to issue effective publicity.
- 3.2 The paper, which was published on 17 December 2008, is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The deadline for responding to the paper is 12 March 2009. It is to be considered by the Council's Governance Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2009. Any comments made by the Standards Committee will be forwarded to that Committee, which will be responsible for making the council's formal response to the consultation paper.

- 3.3 Communities and Local Government Department has indicated that it will take account of the responses received to the consultation before taking decisions on possible changes to the Code. A summary of the responses will be produced within 3 months of the close of the consultation period.
- 3.4 The paper does not make specific proposals for change but asks a series of open questions. It is proposed that Members of Standards Committee could discuss and agree their response to the consultation.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 There has been no consultation on this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

There are none.

Finance Officer Consulted: Date:

5.2 Legal Implications:

The Publicity Code is issued under powers conferred by the Secretary of State under section 4(1) of the Local Government Act 1986. Local authorities are required by section 4(1) of that Act to have regard to the Publicity Code in coming to any decision on publicity.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley Date: 18 February 2009

5.3 Equalities Implications:

There are none.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

There are none.

5.5 <u>Crime & Disorder Implications:</u>

There are none.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

There are none.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

There are none.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

- 1. Communities and Local Government Paper. "Communities in control: Real people, real power Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity".
- 2. Consultation Response to "Communities in control: Real people, real power Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity".

Documents In Members' Rooms:

1. None.

Background Documents:

1. None.