



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Standards Committee

On 7 February 2008

Report Title: Government Consultation Paper on new Ethical Governance Scheme for Local Authorities

Forward Plan reference number:

Report of: **Monitoring Officer**

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non Key Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To report on the recently published Government consultation paper and seek the Standards Committee's agreement to an appropriate response to be sent by the deadline of 15 February 2008.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to note the consultation paper attached at Appendix 2 and to consider the proposed draft response attached at Appendix 1.

Report Authorised by: **John Suddaby, Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **John Suddaby – Monitoring Officer**

4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 There are no financial implications

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

The legal implications are included in the body of the report

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 CLG consultation document entitled Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

6.2 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

7. Report

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets the framework for significant changes to the process of handling standards allegations against members of local authorities. These changes include the devolution of the handling of such allegations from the Standards Board for England to individual local authorities' Standards Committees.

As part of implementing the above changes, the Department for Communities and Local Government has produced a consultation paper entitled 'Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England' and has asked for responses to the consultation to be provided by 15 February.

In addition to the changes proposed to the process of handling standards allegations against members of the Council, the paper also consults on other undertakings relating to the operation of the regime in respect of the political restrictions imposed on certain local government posts and the maximum pay of political assistants.

The CLG is also taking the opportunity to consult on proposals to amend the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committees) (Dispensations) Regulations 2002, with a view to resolving concerns which have been raised by some local authorities on the operation of some aspects of the current provisions.

The CLG state that they wish to make arrangements for these provisions to come into effect in Spring 2008, and are now seeking views on how the detailed rules should work in practice.

The CLG consultation paper is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

Due to the short time in which a response will have to be provided, a preliminary draft response is appended at Appendix 1 for Standards Committee Members' consideration.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The legal implications are included in the body of the report

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 There are no equalities implication

11. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

11.1 Appendix 1 Draft response to consultation.

11.2 Appendix 2 CLT Consultation document