

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2010**

### **STANDARDS ISSUES**

#### **REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **Introduction**

- 1.1 The Queen's Speech on 25 May included the Government's proposal to introduce a Bill to abolish the Standards Board regime. Since 2007, the Standards Board for England has dealt only with those matters which local authorities could not deal with themselves. The recent review carried out by the Standards Board suggested that the devolved local framework was found to be delivering increased confidence in the accountability of local politicians, improved member behaviour and contributing to better governance.
- 1.2 As yet there are no clear details of what is proposed for the future, but for now the local standards framework remains pending legislative change. The Standards Board has indicated that it will continue to fulfil its statutory duties, to support authorities in maintaining high standards and to assist the Government in developing and implementing any changes. The Standards Board has decided to cancel its annual conference planned to take place in Birmingham on 18 and 19 October 2010.

##### **Member Training**

- 2.1 A training session was arranged for members of the Police Authority on Code of Conduct and standards issues. Ten members of the Authority attended the session which was facilitated by Mr Mike Kendall the former County Secretary and Monitoring Officer of West Sussex County Council and former member of the Standards Board for England. The feedback from members regarding the training, which included a number of case studies, was very positive.
- 2.2 The Independent Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr Vic Kempner, has been invited to attend the meeting of the Authority in October 2010 and will, during the seminar session, provide an overview of the role of the Standards Committee on the work of the Authority, including key elements of the Code, behaviour and communications and the issues for members who are dual hatted.

##### **Key Governance Documents**

3. Arrangements are in place to ensure that the Standards Committee, via its independent Chairman and Vice-Chairman, have the opportunity to comment on key governance matters. For example, they are invited to attend meetings of the Corporate Governance Committee and other meetings of the Authority to comment on key documents which impact on the governance and ethical framework of the Authority, including the Annual Governance Statement. The Deputy Chief Executive is considering what additional processes need to be put in place to enable the involvement of the Standards Committee in the work of the Authority.

## **Monitoring Officer**

4. It is proposed that, following the retirement of the present Chief Executive in April 2011, the role of Monitoring Officer should be transferred to the Solicitor to the Authority.

**Recommendation** – that the report be noted.

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