

Meeting: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Agenda Item:

Date: 15 July 2009

6

STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND ANNUAL RETURN

Author - Paul Froggatt Ext No. 2212

1 PURPOSE

1.1 Stevenage Borough Council Annual Return to the Standards Board for England.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note the report.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 All local authorities are now required to make quarterly returns to the Standards Board for England about any complaint that a member is in breach of the Code of Conduct.

3.2 Starting in April 2009 local authorities must now also submit an annual return in a more general form to the Standards Board for England. The Annual Return for Stevenage Borough Council is appended to this report.

3.3 According to the Standards Board the information collected will be used to "drive up performance, champion the work of Standards Committees" and ensure that the Standards Board has an effective overview of the Local Standards Framework. In particular the Standards Board will:

3.3.1 collect notable practice;

3.3.2 identify national gaps in the Local Standards Framework;

3.3.3 identify local gaps in the Local Standards Framework;

3.3.4 build up profiles of individual authorities;

3.3.5 share information with the Audit Commission to enable them to complete their assessment including the use of resource.

3.4 The Council has received no feedback or response from the Standards Board on this return.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None..

APPENDICES

- The Annual Return for Stevenage Borough Council.