

Meeting: Council

Date: 26th February 2003

EXTENSION TO TERMS OF REFERENCE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Chief Executive's Department)

Author – M. Peaston Ext.No. 2215

Lead Officer – P. Froggatt Ext.No. 2212

Contact Officer – S. Hirst Ext.No. 2214

1 PURPOSE

To consider and approve an extension to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 19th December 2002 the Standards Committee considered a report (attached as Appendix A) proposing the extension of its Terms of Reference to cover several additional matters. It agreed to refer these matters to Council seeking approval to their inclusion within the Committee's Terms of Reference.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

The Standards Committee considered that extending the Terms of Reference as set out in the recommendations would contribute to ensuring that standards and ethics were at the heart of the Authority.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Corporate Implications

The extension of the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee does not reduce the decision making process of any other body of the Council.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to extend the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee to cover the matters set out below:-

- (i) dealing with any matters referred from the Council or any other body;
- (ii) considering reports and other communications from external and internal Audit relating to good governance and the ethical standards of the Authority and, without any limitation on the statutory powers of the Standards

Committee, to make recommendations to the executive or a Committee of the Council following such consideration;

- (iii) reviewing aspects of the Constitution relating to other terms of reference for this Committee including matters covered by the ethical governance audit;
- (iv) receiving and consider general reports and communications from the Ombudsman and, at the discretion of the Committee, to report and make recommendations to the appropriate body;
- (v) making recommendations on protocols and employment contract conditions dealing with ethical standards for officers' behaviour;
- (vi) reviewing the register of Members' interests annually and in such a manner as the Committee considers appropriate.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Minute 3 of Standards Committee meeting on 19th December 2002.

APPENDICES

- None.