

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
REVIEW AGAINST THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR YEAR 2006/7**

	Activity	Activity in 2006/7	Assessment	Activity Planned for or Carried Out in 7/8
5.1	To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members;	Training sessions noted in 5.5, As a local requirement, the RoMI is now required to be submitted annually. Members were pursued more rigorously to complete their declarations which were reviewed. Specific and general feedback on the completion of them will be given. Discussions were held with one member about the possible impact of their portrayal of the standards issue.	Satisfactory.	As in 2006/7
5.2	To assist councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;	Training session noted in 5.5. The Monitoring Officer has provided advice & guidance to members on an "as required" basis.	Satisfactory	A further presentation to members took place in June 2005 and will be continued on an annual basis. The Monitoring Officer will continue to be available to provide advice & support
5.3	To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;	A submission to the DCLG on proposed changes to the Code was submitted.	Satisfactory	As required.
5.4.	To monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct	As per 5.14, the Registers of Members Interests & of	Satisfactory.	Maintain supervision.

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		Gifts & Entertainment were reviewed	There has been one complaint made against Members since the adoption of the Code in 2002 which was not upheld. The Monitoring Officer and elected members of the Standards Committee are not aware of any ethical issues of substance.	
5.5	To advise, train or arrange to train councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;	Refresher training session by the Monitoring Officer in June and September 2006	Fit-for-purpose	Three training sessions on the 2007 Code will be given by the Monitoring Officer in June/ July 2007 Refresher training will be given on an annual basis.
5.6	Responsibility for granting dispensations to councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;	Reactive. No requests in period		Reactive
5.7	To deal with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the monitoring officer on any matter that is referred by an ethical standards officer to the monitoring officer;	The procedure is in place. No reports received in period	Satisfactory	If as expected the law changes then procedures will need to be reviewed.
5.8	To deal with any matters referred from the Full Council or any other body;	No activity in period	Satisfactory	As required.
5.9	To consider reports and other communications from external and internal audit relating to good governance	Reactive, No activity in period	Satisfactory	Reactive

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	and the ethical standards of this Authority and without any limitation on the statutory powers of the Standards Committee making recommendations to the Executive or a Committee of the Council following such consideration;			
5.10	To review aspects of the Constitution relating to other terms of reference for this Committee including matters covered by the ethical governance audit.	No activity in period		As required.
5.11	To receive and consider general reports and communications from the Ombudsman and, at the discretion of the Committee, reporting and making recommendations to the appropriate body;	No activity in period	Satisfactory	As required.
5.12	To review and make recommendations on protocols and employment contract conditions dealing with ethical standards for officers' behaviour;	No activity in period	Satisfactory	The Officers Code of Conduct will be considered if it is received.
5.13	To consider and make recommendations as appropriate on all protocols affecting the conduct of Members and officers;	Reactive - no activity in period	Satisfactory	As required.
5.14	To review the register of Members' Interests at such times and in such a manner as the Committee feels appropriate.	The register for 2006/7, together with the Register of Gifts & Entertainment was reviewed in February 2007.	Compliance with local requirements has improved since 2005/6. Some points of detail have been picked up – see item 5.1	A further review will be carried out and specific points of substance picked up with Members.