



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Communications Strategy – Standards Committee
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	9 October 2017
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask the Standards Committee to consider adopting a Communications Strategy for the Standards Committee; that promotes the work of the Standards Committee and the importance of ethical governance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the 'Communications Strategy for the Standards Committee' at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To instruct the Borough Secretary to make arrangements for the promotion of the work of the Standards Committee in accordance with the Communications Strategy.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background and Issues

- 3.1.1 At its meeting held on 19 December 2016, the Standards Committee set up a Working Group to put together a draft Work Plan for the Standards Committee for 2017/2018. Membership of the Working Group consists of Councillors Patel, Oldham, Smith and B. Markham. The establishment of a Work Plan will ensure that the Committee can meet all of its responsibilities and obligations during the year. It is seen as good practice for the Standards Committee to produce an annual Work Plan.
- 3.1.2 As detailed on the Work Plan, the Standards Committee is scheduled to consider at its meeting on 9 October 2017, a draft Communications Strategy for the Standards Committee. The draft Communications Strategy will be

considered by the Standards Working Group (Work Plan) at its meeting on 2 October 2017.

3.1.3 The comments from the Working Group on the draft Communications Strategy will be provided to the meeting.

3.1.4 Appended to this briefing note is a draft 'Communications Strategy for the Standards Committee' for the Committee's consideration and comment.

3.2 Choices

3.2.1 Members are asked to approve the draft 'Communications Strategy for the Standards Committee' at Appendix 1.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This report does not have any direct policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There will be a resource implication, in terms of officer time to promote the Communications Strategy.

4.2.2 Adopting a comprehensive Communications Strategy will assist the Council in reducing any potential risk to the Council that could arise through Councillors being inadequately informed about governance matters.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Report and Appendix – Draft Communications Strategy — Standards Working Group (Work Plan) - 2 October 2017

**Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary**