



Briefing Report No: **280/2010**

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Update on Standards**

Wards Affected: **None**

To: **Standards Committee**

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Contact Officer: **Anthony Butler**

Telephone: **01803 207155**

E.mail: **anthony.butler@torbay.gov.uk**

1. Key points and Summary

As members will be aware the current government intends to abolish the standards regime. This report is to outline to members what the government's intentions are and the likely timeframe for their intentions to be implemented.

2. Current Understanding

The government's intention is to abolish the whole standards regime (i.e. centrally prescribed code of conduct, standards committees with the power to suspend councillors and an unelected central body (i.e. Standards for England)). It will be done in the Localism Bill which is due for its first reading in the House of Commons in this month with a view to it being passed by November 2011. It would appear from information the government have produced that the intention is for the Bill to have immediate effect once passed therefore the whole regime would be abolished in November 2011. However Standards for England believe their abolition is likely to occur between 31 December 2011 to 31 March 2012. A copy of the latest Standards for England Bulletin and a copy of the latest government announcement is attached to this report.

3. Actions

It is still uncertain as to what will replace the current standards regime. It has been suggested that some form of regime is maintained on a Devon wide basis beyond the statutory obligations on the councils. Members are asked for any comments or suggestions they may with regard to the future of the standards regime within both the Council and on a national level.

Anthony Butler
Monitoring Officer