



Briefing Report No: **281/2010** Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Annual Review of Past Year and Proposed Future Strategy and Work Programme**

Wards Affected: **All Wards in Torbay**

To: **Standards Committee** On: **25 November 2010**

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1. Statistics

Complaints received by Torbay Council alleging Member misconduct in 12 months to 31 October 2010:

	2010	2009
Complaints received	6	4
Referred for investigation	2	0
No breach found	4	2
Not relevant to Code of Conduct	0	2

2. Recent Actions

The following paragraphs describe some principal features of the Committee's work in the last year:

- (a) Standards Committee independent members have attended training sessions on member development alongside Council members to learn more of the working of the Council.
- (b) Standards Committee members have attended Council, Cabinet and other Committee meetings to observe and report with a particular emphasis on probity and conduct issues. Feedback reports have been given to the Chief Executive, Chairman and Group Leaders.
- (c) The Standards Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman has met with the Council's Senior Managers and the Chief Executive to discuss the future of the Standards Committee and its roll in the council following the proposed abolition of the standards regime in 2011/2012.
- (d) The Standards Committee Chairman is sending out a letter to the council's partner organisations explaining the roll of the Standards Committee and how it may be able to assist those partner organisations.
- (e) The Standards Committee has received from the Monitoring Officer a digest of significant Adjudication Panel cases so that it can learn more from the processes and experiences of the appeal body and take them into account in improving its own conduct of cases.

- (f) The Monitoring Officer has taken part in intensive sessions with the Democratic Services Manager with two new Councillors (one for Torbay and one for Brixham) during which case studies on each code paragraph and model answers, prepared by the Monitoring Officer, were examined with those Councillors.
- (g) The Standards Committee have been provided with 'actual' complaints received by other local authorities that have been referred to investigation to discuss whether they would have dealt with those complaints in a similar manner. They have also received copies of the reports into the complaints prepared by the Monitoring Officer for those authorities.

3. Future Strategy and Work Programme of the Committee

The future strategy and work programme of the committee will be as per the work programme approved by the Standards Committee at its meeting of 3 June 2010.

Anthony Butler
Monitoring Officer