

Standards Committee
15th June 2009

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Report Title	Standards Board - Publications update
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Date of Meeting:	15 th June 2009
Directorate:	Borough Solicitor
Ward(s)	All

1. Summary

Issue 43 of the Standards Board's "Bulletin" is attached and comment made on some of its points.

2. Recommendations

That members note the contents.

3. Report Background

The key points to note from the bulletin are:-

3.1 Further useful commentary is included on the definition of Official Capacity. Members should note that at present the 2007 code of conduct only applies to official capacity and still does not cover conduct of members at any time in their private capacity. It is understood however that as soon as the new code becomes operative the government's intention is that recent amendments to the legislation, which are not currently in force in England, will mean that private capacity will be included.

3.2 The Annual Return Questionnaire was filed online on 15th May 2009. Going forward, this enables the Standards Board to gain valuable feedback on our arrangements for promoting and supporting high standards of ethical conduct.

3.3 There is a report of the Leeds Conservative Councillors' Association LG Conference in February. The next Local Government Conferences is scheduled for 30 June - 2 July 2009.

3.4 Rossendale Borough Council won in the Standards and Ethics category at the LGC awards in 2009.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

There are none- apart from, perhaps, the resources needed to arrange training for members on any points arising.

4.2 Legal

No specific points to mention at this time

4.3 Other Implications

By keeping abreast of developments mentioned in publications such as these members will find it easier to perform their tasks on the various sub-committees, which are involved in the determination of member-conduct complaints.

5. Background Papers

None

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