

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 2 DECEMBER 2009

REPORT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

6. CREATION OF A CONSIDERATION AND HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To consider the creation of a Consideration and Hearings Sub-Committee or, alternatively, a Consideration Sub-Committee.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: either	
(A)	a Consideration and Hearings Sub-Committee, or
(B)	a Consideration Sub-Committee,
be established.	

1.0 Background

1.1 The Standards Committee may appoint a sub-committee (the Consideration and Hearings Sub-Committee) to consider a monitoring officer's investigation report and hear complaints. Regulation 6(2) of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 states that the Standards Committee can appoint Sub-Committees to discharge functions under Regulations 17 to 20 and that these Sub-Committees must be chaired by an independent Member. Regulations 17 to 20 relate to consideration of reports by the Standards Committee following a local investigation or an investigation by an Ethical Standards Officer, hearings by the Standards Committee, findings of the Standards Committee and notification of findings of the Standards Committee.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Standard Committee has requested that the Monitoring Officer submit a report to the Committee on forming a Sub-Committee to hear complaints. The Sub-Committee could also deal with consideration meetings as well as the hearing of complaints.

2.2 Terms of reference are attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B' (Page 6.4)**. A procedure for Consideration meetings is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'C' (Page 6.5)**. The Committee already has a procedure for hearings.

2.3 This Sub-Committee must be chaired by an independent member of the standards committee. When considering matters relating to a Parish Councillor, the Sub-Committee must include a parish representative on the Sub-Committee.

2.4 Flowcharts showing procedures for consideration and hearing meetings can be found at **Essential Reference Papers 'D' and 'E' (Pages 6.6 and 6.7 respectively)**.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A' (Page 6.3)**.

Background Papers

None

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A6'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives:	Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i>
Consultation:	None.
Legal:	The legal implications are contained in the report.
Financial:	None.
Human Resource:	None.
Risk Management:	The Council needs to ensure that it has an effective Standards Committee and Sub-Committees to achieve good governance and ensure high standards of probity.