

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 3rd June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Standards Board Information Roundup

WARDS: N/A

1.0 PUROPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To bring Members of the Committee up to date with the latest news from the Standards Board

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the report be noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of the Committee, the Standards Board has released Bulletins 42 and 43, which are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively and can be accessed via the following link:
<http://www.standardsboard.gov.uk/Publications/TheBulletin/>.

- (a) Members' attention is drawn to the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) Regulations 2009 which are presently being prepared and which will allow the Standards Board to suspend the initial assessment functions of an Authority in appropriate circumstances, and will also enable Councils to establish joint standards committees. They also amend the powers of standards committees to grant dispensation to Members who would otherwise be unable to take part in Authority business because of a prejudicial interest. At the time of writing, these regulations were still expected to come into force in May 2009.
- (b) In Bulletin 43, the Standards Board indicate that further guidance has been produced on the question of "other action" in the context of local assessments. At the time of producing the bulletin, the Standards

Board intended to publish the guidance on their Website in May and would notify Monitoring Officers when it was available. An update will be provided at the Meeting. The Bulletin also provides an update on the application of the Code of Conduct to private capacity. As things stand, the Code still does not cover Members at any time in their private capacity. The Standards Board understands that the Government's intention is that amendments will become effective when the new Code becomes operative. Members will be advised of progress in due course.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** – None

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** – None

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – None

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – None

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 No key issues have been identified which require control measures

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no documents under the meaning of the Act