

REPORT TO: Standards Committee
DATE: 8th September 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Resources
SUBJECT: Blogging Topic Guide
WARDS: N/A

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of the online publication of a Blogging Topic Guide by Standards for England.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the report be noted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 18 August 2010, Standards for England published a Blogging Topic Guide in the Guidance Section of its website, accessible at www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/guidance

3.2 This is interesting, bearing in mind discussions of the last meeting of the Committee, on blogging and social networking sites.

3.3 The guide points out that blogging is increasingly becoming an important and legitimate part of the operation of a democratic society. It recognises that it is an efficient cost effective means of getting in touch with persons, and whilst it explains the positive role of blogging, it provides information on how the Code of Conduct may apply and gives some examples of tribunal cases which have dealt with the issue.

A hard copy of guide is attached as Appendix 1, but Members are advised there are links to further material contained in the online version.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. 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. RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 No key issues have been identified which will require control measures.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 The report of itself does not contain specific equality and diversity issues.

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

- 9.1 None