

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

4 July 2011

FUTURE OF STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

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RECENT REFERENCES:

[ST 85](#) Localism Bill – Future of Standards Framework – 31 January 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members will have noted from the minutes of the last meeting (31 January 2011) that it was agreed to write to the two local Members of Parliament, expressing concern about how the new proposals for the Standards framework would affect parish councils. In particular, it was considered that a proper system of monitoring and control was still required (not necessarily to be undertaken by the district council), because this would help maintain public confidence in this important tier of local government.

The Council's letter was referred by George Hollingbery MP to the Minister for Housing and Local Government. Attached as Appendix 1 to this report, is the reply from the Minister, which explains that no replacement monitoring measures will be put in place.

Any update to the current situation regarding abolition of the Standards for England organisation will be given as part of this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the response of the Minister for Housing & Local Government and the current position be noted.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

An Efficient and Effective Council.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None.

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Reply from Minister for Housing & Local Government dated 2 March 2011