

Bolsover District Council

Customer Service & Transformation Scrutiny Committee

12th October 2020

<p>Review of Standards Committee-Operational Review – Post-Scrutiny Monitoring Final Report</p>
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Report of the Chair of Customer Service & Transformation Scrutiny Committee

This report is public.

Purpose of the Report

- To present a further Post-Scrutiny Monitoring Report on the Review of Standards Committee-Operational Review to Customer Service & Transformation Scrutiny Committee.

1 Report Details

1.1 During 2018/19, the Customer Service & Transformation Scrutiny scrutinised the work of the Standards Committee and how it operated. Committee concluded that the following were key issues requiring further activity:

- The introduction of a more formalised approach to training, particularly at Parish level;
- Consideration of Article 9 of the Constitution and the Committee Terms of Reference (Part 3.6) as part of the annual review process – see benchmarking exercise at 5.5 and 5.6 in the main report which highlights areas for consideration;
- Improved public information, both web-based and hard-copy, to ensure the role of Standards Committee is clear.

1.2 The Committee and subsequently Executive, approved seven recommendations which aimed to assist the Council in improving existing approaches to Member training and engagement on Standards.

1.3 The appendix to this report acknowledges progress by Officers implementing the recommendations:

- Three out of the seven recommendations were implemented to timescale.
- Three out of the seven recommendations were completed outside of the original timescale. Evidence is attached at Appendices 3-4.
- One recommendation requires an extension due to the availability within the Parish Council Liaison (PCL) meeting schedule and the impact of Covid-19 on the ability for PCL to meet. It is suggested that Committee is updated on the progress of PCL meetings and associated presentations to Parish Councillors informally. .

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(2) of the Constitution.
- 2.2 Members are required to make their report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(3) of the Constitution.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.
- 3.3 A key consideration of the review was that both Parish and District Councillors have equal access to the same information and training.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options. Members are required to note the service's response to progress against the review recommendations. Where required, further monitoring may be required.
- 4.2 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(2) of the Constitution and as such the report cannot be rejected.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 None from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added to/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 None directly from this report.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Members note the progress against the review recommendation.

- 6.2 That Members acknowledge any exceptions to delivery and clarify any additional action required by the service.
- 6.3 That Members consider and approve the suggested extension to the monitoring period where recommendations have not been fully implemented, as outlined in section 1 of this report and Appendix 2.
- 6.4 That Members make its findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(3) of the Constitution.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	N/A
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	<p>Aim: Transforming Our Organisation</p> <p>Priority: Demonstrating good governance</p>

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1.	Review of Standards Committee – Operational Review – Original Service and Executive Response.
2.	Review of Standards Committee – Operational Review – Action Plan
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
<p>All documents related to the Review of Standards Committee – Operational Review Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.</p>	
Report Author	Contact Number
Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer	2385