

Meeting: Standards Committee

Date of Meeting: 15th July 2010

Title of Report: Proposed Decentralisation & Localism Bill

Report of:
Mr D Mackey
Interim Head of Corporate Legal
Section

Contact Officer:
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This report contains	Yes	No
CONFIDENTIAL Information/		√
EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report DELEGATED?		

1.0 Purpose of Report

To advise Members on the Governments planned Decentralisation and Localism Bill and its effect on Standards for England.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Members note the report.

Corporate Objective Monitoring

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2.	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3.	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5.	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8.	Children and Young People		√	

Financial Implications

	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

Not applicable

List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

www.standardsforengland.gov.uk

3.0 Background

- 3.1 As part of the Queen's Speech, the Government announced that a Decentralisation and Localism Bill will be introduced, expected to be published in the Autumn. Part of this Bill includes the abolition of the Standards Board regime but no further details are available at this time.
- 3.2 Bob Chilton, Chair and Glenys Stacey, Chief Executive of Standards for England have recently responded as follows:-

"We are very disappointed at the Government's decision to abolish the Local Government Standards Regime.

Since 2007, Standards for England has dealt only with those matters which Local Authorities could not deal with themselves. Our recent review of this devolved local framework found that it is delivering increased confidence in the accountability of local politicians, improved Member behaviour and contributing to better governance.

We do not have clear details as yet of what is proposed for the future, but for now the local Standards framework remains pending legislative change. Our priorities are to fulfil our statutory duties, to support Local Authorities in maintaining high standards and to assist the Government in developing and implementing any new arrangements".

- 3.3 No further details of the Government's proposals are available at the time of writing this report but a verbal update will be given at the meeting.