

**Terms of Reference**  
**(adopted by Future of Standards Working Group 16 May 2011)**

**Accountability**

The Future of Standards Working Group reports to the Standards Committee and, if required, to Cabinet or Council.

As a task and finish working group concerned with both project delivery and policy development, it consists of eight Standards Committee members, including representatives of all political groups on the District Council, and the Chief Executive. The working group will be supported by relevant Council officers.

**Scope of deliberation**

To report to the Standards Committee, with the intention of the Committee making recommendations to Council on the following:

- (i) whether the district council should adopt a local code of conduct and associated administrative framework, including a framework for the handling of complaints;
- (ii) possible wording for a local code of conduct;
- (iii) a possible framework for the administration of the code of conduct including handling of complaints;
- (iv) the future of the Standards Committee, including its role and composition, and whether any or all of its work should be assigned to another Council body;  
and
- (v) whether or not the district council will continue to have responsibility for parish council matters, even if not obliged to by law, if requested by parish councils.

It is anticipated that the Future of Standards Working Group will have discharged its responsibilities when the existing Standards regime ceases.