

For the Attention of Cheshire East Council  
Group Leaders

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OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

Dear Group Leader

**LETTER SENT ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Following the meeting of the Standards Committee held on Monday 25th July 2011, a request was made that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman produce a short briefing paper for issue to the Group Leaders regarding the future within Cheshire East of adopting a Voluntary Code of Conduct with a Standards Committee and the place, if any, of Independent Members. It is suggested that the attached briefing paper could form the basis of a group discussion, the feedback from which to be submitted to Diane Moulson, Democratic Services no later than close of business on Wednesday 14 September 2011 for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

Members can find more detailed information by referring to Agenda Item 7 contained with the agenda and notes for the Standards Committee held on Monday 28th March 2011. There is also some reference in the Chairman's Introduction to the Standards Committee Annual Report presented to Council on Thursday 21st April 2011. Both of these papers were approved by the full Standards Committee. There is also a wealth of information on the Standards for England Website.

We would hope that in the future we will be able to produce arrangements that are inexpensive, quicker to resolve complaints and less bureaucratic than at present and indeed simpler to understand by both the public and Councillors.

Members will of course have noted that current Government proposals abolish the Standards for England organisation and propose to limit the powers of any future Standards Committees by removing the powers of suspension.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Briers (Chairman Cheshire East Standards Committee)  
David Sayer (Vice-Chairman Cheshire East Standards Committee)