

KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

Wards Affected

Kington

Purpose

1. To inform members of the action proposed by the Kington Town Council in response to the Public Interest Report published by the District Auditor on 22 October 2004.

Background

2. The Standards Committee was advised at its meeting on 3 December 2004 of the District Auditor's Public Interest Report arising from general concerns about the Town Council's corporate governance arrangements.
3. One of the recommendations by the District Auditor was for the Town Council to seek advice and support from the Herefordshire Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer when promoting high standards of conduct and considering possible breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Action Plan

4. The Mayor of Kington Town Council (Councillor Mrs R J Bradbury) has met with the County Secretary and Solicitor as Monitoring Officer to discuss the recommendations and how best to respond. An action plan has been drawn up which is set out at Appendix A to this Report for the Committee's information.
5. This plan was recommended to the Kington Town Council at their last meeting on 17 January 2005. The County Secretary and Solicitor was also invited to attend this meeting and advised on the proposed actions. The recommendations were accepted with a number of small amendments and these are due to be ratified at the next meeting of the Kington Town Council in February.

Presentation on Code of Conduct

6. At the meeting on 17 January 2005, the County Secretary and Solicitor also took the opportunity to make a presentation to the Town Council of the requirements of the Code of Conduct and to take questions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Standards Committee note the action that has been taken in relation to Kington Town Council.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Marie Rosenthal, County Secretary and Solicitor on (01432) 260200