

STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

LEAD OFFICER: Martin Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

REPORT AUTHOR: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager

Summary: Reports progress on implementing the work plan for the Standards Committee for 2008/2009

Recommendation:	That progress in implementing the Work Plan be noted and the action taken in raising the profile of ethical governance noted.
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Committee agreed a programme of work for 2008/2009 in February this year as part of the Council's response to the IDeA Ethical Governance Health Check Report in late 2007. This report summarises progress in implementing the Work Plan and reports on proposals to raise the profile of the Standards Committee and ethical governance throughout the organisation. The Work Plan is reproduced at Appendix "A".

2 PROGRESS ON WORK PLAN

- 2.1 This paragraph summarises the current status of the work plan events.

Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly meetings between the Leader, Chief Executive and Chair of this Committee have been set up and the first held on 26 June.

Independent and Parish Members to be included in all Member Development Events

To be implemented in 2008/2009 Member Development Programme

Consider and respond to DCLG consultation paper on locally based ethical governance regime

Complete

Report and QAction Plan from IDeA Ethical Governance Health Check

Complete

Final proposals for new Ethical Conduct Regime to be recommended to Council with Constitutional Changes

Complete

Refresher Training for Members on Code of Conduct

All Borough Councillors have been offered access to Modern Councillor, an e-learning programme made available to all district councils in Cumbria through the Achieving Cumbrian Excellence (ACE) local government improvement initiative. Modern Councillor includes a 30 minute module on the Code of Conduct.

Take-up of Modern Councillor has been poor, however, not only in Copeland but in the other districts too. The reasons for this are unclear but are being taken up by the appropriate member development groups.

It is therefore intended to hold a number of evening refresher events on the Code of Conduct in September at various locations in the Borough and to open these to our own Members, Parish Councils for the area, and to Allerdale Members. This will reciprocate a similar invitation from Allerdale earlier this year.

Induction Training for new Independent and Parish Members

Not yet addressed due to difficulties in recruiting third independent Member.

Include Ethical Governance Strand in new Member Development Programme

To be addressed by Member Development Panel in early July.

3. RAISING PROFILE OF ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AND THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- 3.1 One of the key recommendations of the IDeA Light Touch Health Check report was to raise the profile of the Standards Committee and ethical governance generally in the organisation.
- 3.2 A number of actions have been taken to address this recommendation, including establishment of the quarterly liaison meetings referred to above.
- 3.3 A fortnightly Members Newsletter is now being issued, not specifically centred around ethical governance though the opportunity has been taken to ensure all Members are aware of the new locally-based regime. The autumn edition of Copeland Matters and the September Team Talk will both include a piece on ethical governance and the role of the Standards Committee in local government.
- 3.4 The Standards Committee is asked to consider whether there are any other initiatives which could usefully be taken in this respect.

List of Consultees:

None

Background Papers:

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; Consultation Paper: Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer comments	
S. 151 Officer comments	