

STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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

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. The next will be held in October 2008.

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. Poor take-up of Modern Councillor has been raised in previous reports and remains an issue.

Refresher training events on the Code of Conduct for Borough and parish Members have been provisionally arranged for September but these have had to be deferred to October due to

clashes with other meetings in September potentially involving large numbers of both Borough and Parish council members.

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

Complete.

Ethical Governance Workshop

The Work Plan includes a full day ethical governance workshop in September and the Standards Committee is asked to consider and discuss the format, content and facilitation arrangements for this event.

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

Standards Committee Work Programme 2008/2009

Date	Event	Subject	By	Cost
Feb 2008	Meeting	Set up regular (quarterly) meetings – Leader/CE/Chair STA	TC/LT/CL	
Feb 2008	Development Events	Independent/Parish Members to be included in all development/corporate events	TC/Corporate Team	
Feb 2008	Report	Consider and respond to DCLG consultation document on new locally-based ethical conduct regime	MJ/TC	
Feb 2008	Report	Consider report and Action Plan from IDEa Ethical Governance Health Check	MJ/TC	
March 2008	Report	Consider final proposals for new ethical conduct regime. Recommend constitutional changes to Council	MJ/TC	
April 2008	Member Development	Refresher Training (all Members) on the Members Code of Conduct 2007	MJ/TC/NF/SB	
April 2008	Member Development	Training (0.5 days) for Standards Committee on new locally based ethical framework	MJ/TC/external	
April/May 2008	Member Development	Induction Training for new independent/parish members	TC	
June 2008	Member Development	Include ethical governance strand in new Member Development programme	TC	
July 2008	Report	Report and proposals on raising profile of STC through existing and new CBC comms channels	MJ/TC/IC	

September 2008	Member Development	Full Day Workshop (facilitated) for STC/Exec/C Team On furthering excellent ethical governance standards internally. Develop Action Plan for further development	MJ/TC/IDeA	
October 2008	Newsletter	Develop and publish first quarterly Standards Committee Newsletter	MJ/TC/IC	
Oct/Nov 2008	Survey	Member and employee survey on ethical standards in CBC	TC/IC	
Dec 2008/Jan 2009	Charter	Develop in house Charter for recommendation to Council	MJ/TC	
Feb 2009	Report	Standards Committee Annual Report to Council	MJ/TC	