

The Standards Committee Work/Action Plan up to 31 March 2017

This Action Plan was monitored by the Committee at each meeting.

The Standards Committee is responsible for the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members. The Committee has worked to discharge this duty by undertaking the following actions:

Action	Why	By When	Status/Suggested Action
Monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	Ongoing	Continue with monitoring.
To continue to develop an ongoing programme of meetings with invited guests, including the Elected Mayor, the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team, Group Leaders, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council and the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee and other Regulatory Committees.	To develop a dialogue between the Committee, and members and appropriate Officers relating to ethical governance and ethical standards.	Ongoing	Continue to develop the programme.  The Authority's Deputy Chief Executive (Chief Operating and Delivery Officer) attended a meeting in 2016.
To invite Chairs of Standards Committees from other Authorities in the region to attend Committee meetings.	To provide an opportunity to understand ethical governance and standards issues in other Authorities.	Ongoing	Continue to develop the programme.  The Independent Chair of Northumberland County Council's Standards Committee attended a meeting in 2016.

<p>To provide training for the Committee on relevant ethical standards issues. To seek training on a regional basis.</p>	<p>Training on local assessment, the Code of Conduct and other relevant matters/legislation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A regional training event was held on 26 July 2016, hosted by Newcastle City Council and facilitated by Bevan Brittan LLP Solicitors.</p>
<p>To review training available to all Council Members on ethical governance, ethical standards issues including arrangements with respect to the Code of Conduct for Members; granting of dispensations, the use of Social Media and declaring interests.</p>	<p>To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>By January 2017</p>	<p>The Committee considered and commented upon a report on the Member Development Programme in December 2016 as part of the ongoing training review.</p>
<p>Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report</p>	<p>Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.</p>	<p>By end of each municipal year</p>	<p>Continue with production of Annual Report.</p>
<p>Chairs and Deputy Chairs and Independent Persons of Standards Committees to meeting in a regional forum.</p>	<p>To facilitate a dialogue and discussion about ethical governance and the application of the Code of Conduct for Members.</p>	<p>Summer 2016</p>	<p>No regional meetings of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons took place in 2016/17. A regional training event detailed above took place in July 2016. This event did afford all Members and the Independent</p>

			Persons who attended the opportunity to discuss informally matters relating to the operation of Standards Committees
<p>To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role including their new role in relation to the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers.</p> <p>To seek training on a regional basis.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Authority's Independent Persons understand their role in relation to ethical governance and the Code of Conduct for Members as well as the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers.</p>	Ongoing	<p>A regional training event was held on 26 July 2016, hosted by Newcastle City Council and facilitated by Bevan Brittan LLP Solicitors.</p>
<p>To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.</p>	November 2016	<p>No suggested amendments to the Local Arrangements under the Code of Conduct have been received.</p>