

# North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 6 March 2014

## ITEM 6

Title: Standards  
Committee - Action  
Plan/Work Programme

Report Author: Vivienne Geary, Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5339)

Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist – Governance and Employment (Tel: 643 5329)

Wards affected: All

### 1.1 Purpose:

To advise the Committee of the action plan/work programme of the Committee for the year up to 31 March 2014.

### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and note this report.

### 1.3 Information

#### 1.3.1 The Standards Committee's - Future Work/Action Plan up to 31 March 2014

This Action Plan is monitored by the Committee at each meeting and the progress of the identified actions will be reported in the Committee's Annual Report to Council in May 2014.

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.

Action	Why	By When	Status/Suggested action
Monitor the operation of the new Members' Code of Conduct.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	Ongoing	Ongoing
Review the Authority's local arrangements for considering complaints against Members.	To ensure that it is operating effectively and transparently with appropriate ownership of the procedure by Members	July 2013	Completed. New arrangements approved at Council Meeting on 26 September 2013.
Develop an on going programme of	To develop a dialogue between	Ongoing	Ongoing. The Elected Mayor

meetings with invited guests, including the Elected Mayor, the Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Group Leaders, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council and the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee.	the Committee, and members and appropriate Officers relating to ethical governance and ethical standards.		and Interim Chief Executive attended the Governance Committee on 6 June 2013. Other guests, including the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been invited to attend this evening's meeting.
To provide training for the Committee on relevant ethical standards issues	Training on local assessment, the Code of Conduct and other relevant matters/legislation.	Ongoing	Ongoing.
To make training available to all Council Members on ethical governance, ethical standards issues including arrangements with respect to the Code of Conduct; granting of dispensations, the use of Social Media and declaring interests.	To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct	May 2013	On-line training via the Learning Pool is available to all Members in relation to the requirements of the Code of Conduct, declaring interests, dispensations and the use of social media.
Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report	Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months at Annual Council Meeting.	By end of each municipal year	Ongoing.
Consider holding a Standards Committee Regional Conference.	To facilitate a dialogue and discussion about ethical governance and the application of the Code of Conduct for	Decision whether to hold such an event - September 2013	Subject to discussion with other Authorities

	Members		
Encourage the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees to meeting in a regional forum	To facilitate a dialogue and discussion about ethical governance and the application of the Code of Conduct for Members	Mid June. Favourable responses from authorities in the region have been received to this event.	Completed. First meeting held on 25 June 2013. Further meeting held on 31 January 2014. See report on this matter later in agenda
To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role	To ensure that the Authority's Independent Persons understand their role in relation to ethical governance and the Code of Conduct for Members	November 2013	Completed. Training event held on 20 January 2014.

**1.4 Appendices:**

None.

**1.5 Contact officers:**

Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance (0191) 643 5339

Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist: Governance and Employment (0191) 643 5329

**1.6 Background information:**

None.

Stephen Ballantyne

**Report author**.....