

North Tyneside Council

Report to Standards Committee

Date: 6 March 2014

ITEM 9

Title: Code of Conduct
for Members – Public
engagement

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

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Governance and Employment

Wards affected: All

1.1 Purpose:

To inform the Committee of the development of a public engagement process in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to note the proposed approach to public engagement in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members.

1.3 Information

At the last meeting of the Committee in December, Members requested that a public engagement exercise be undertaken in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

The purpose of the engagement exercise is to gauge the perceptions of the public with respect to the behaviour of Members and whether the Code of Conduct for Members meets those expectations as a regulatory tool.

The Committee suggested that the Residents Panel could be used to facilitate the community engagement process.

Following the December meeting of the Committee Officers have consulted upon the best process to deliver an engagement process that will produce feedback that the Authority can use.

It is suggested that Resident Panel members are invited to focus groups to discuss the Code of Conduct and its operation. The Head of Law and Governance would be represented at the Focus Group meetings to provide technical detail but the sessions would be led by Officers from the Engagement Team. Invitations to members of the Residents Panel will need to be issued to assess the level of interest from the panel members to join a focus group dealing with this matter.

In addition to the above it is suggested that the same engagement process is used with the Young Mayor and Cabinet to seek their feedback on the Code of Conduct for Members.

Member are requested to note the proposed approach to engagement with respect to the Code of Conduct for Members

1.3 Appendices:

None

1.5 Contact officers:

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1.6 Background information:

None

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Report author.....