

North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 17 December 2015

ITEM 8

Title: Standards
Committee - Action
Plan/Work Programme

**Report from Service
Area:**

Law and Governance

Report Authors:

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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 2016 and current progress.

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 2016

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

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 Members' Code of Conduct.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	Ongoing	Ongoing
To continue to develop an ongoing programme of meetings with invited guests, including the Elected Mayor, the 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	Ongoing. The Chair of the Licensing Committee is attending the 17 December 2015 Standards Committee meeting.
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. Mr Mark Scrimshaw, the Chair of the Governance Committee of the North East Combined Authority is attending the 17 December 2015 Standards Committee 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 seek training on a regional basis.			The provision of training on a regional basis was discussed at the regional meeting of Chairs/Deputy Chairs and Independent Persons in

			October. See separate report later on agenda.
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.	To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.	By December 2015	Ongoing. A separate report on agenda.
Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report	Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.	By end of each municipal year	Ongoing.
Chairs and Deputy Chairs and Independent Persons 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.	Ongoing throughout year	Meeting held on October 2015. See separate report on agenda.
To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role including their new role in relation to the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers. To seek training on a regional basis.	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.	November 2015	Ongoing. Raised at regional meeting of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons. See report on agenda. This will be discussed by the Monitoring Officers Group in January 2016.

<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>	<p>November 2015</p>	<p>Ongoing. At the September meeting of the Committee Members were requested to notify the Head of Law and Governance of any suggested changes/amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members. No changes/amendments have been received. It is proposed that a letter be sent to all Members of the Council seeking any proposed changes/amendments. Any responses received will be reported to the March 2016 Committee meeting.</p>
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1.4 Appendices:

None

1.5 Contact officers:

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1.6 Background information:

Annual Report of the Standards Committee
Report to Standards Committee on 4 June 2015.