

North Tyneside Council

Report to Standards Committee

Date: 9 June 2016

ITEM

Title: Action Plan/Work Programme 2016 - 17

Report from Service

Area: Law and Governance

Report Author: Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5339)

Wards affected: All

1.1 Purpose:

To provide a report on the Action Plan/Work Programme of the Standards Committee for 2016/17.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and suggest any additions and amendments to this report as appropriate; and to approve the action plan/work programme.

1.3 Information

1.3.1 The Standards Committee's - Action Plan/Work Programme up to 31 March 2017

The Standards Committee is responsible for the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors, Co-opted Members.

The Action Plan/Work Programme sets out below details the proposed tasks and matters that will be undertaken by the Committee in this municipal year. Members are requested to consider the proposed tasks and matters and determine the action plan/work programme for 2016/17.

The Action Plan/Work Programme will be monitored by the Committee at each meeting and the progress of the identified actions will be reported in the Committee's Annual Report in May 2017.

Action	Why	By When
Monitor the operation of the new Members' Code of Conduct.	To ensure that it is operating effectively	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
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
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. Update – a regional training event is in the process of being arranged and is likely to take place in July 2016.
To review 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.	By January 2016
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.

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.	Summer 2016.
To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role including their new role in relation to the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers.	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.	Ongoing. Update – a regional training event is in the process of being arranged and is likely to take place in July 2016.
To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct.	To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.	November 2016

1.4 Appendices:

None.

1.5 Contact officers:

Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance Services

(0191) 643 5339

Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist: Governance and Employment

(0191) 643 5329

1.6 Background information:

Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members
The Localism Act 2011
Standards Committee Annual Report 2015-2016.