

North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 1 December 2016

ITEM 7

Title: Standards Committee -
Action Plan/
Work Programme

Report from Service Area: Law and Governance

Report Authors: Vivienne Geary, Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5339)
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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 2017.

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 2017

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 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 new 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. Invitations have been sent out and responses are being co-ordinated in relation to attendance at future meetings of the Committee. The Deputy Chief Executive will be attending the December meeting of the Committee.
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	Ongoing. Invitations have been sent out and responses are being co-ordinated in relation to attendance at future meetings of the Committee.
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 was arranged by Newcastle City Council and took place on 25 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 2017	A report will be submitted to the December meeting of the Committee providing details of attendance at training provided to Members

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.	Summer 2016.	Update – to be arranged in liaison with the other authorities.
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 was arranged by Newcastle City Council and took place on 25 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	Ongoing

1.4 Appendices:

None.

1.5 Contact officers:

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1.6 Background information:

None.