

## **The Report of the Standards Committee**

The Standard Committee met at County Hall, Northallerton on Monday, 4 June 2007. Present:- James F S Daghish (Independent Member) in the Chair. County Councillors Brian Marshall, J W Marshall and Peter Sowray; together with Doctor Janet Holt (Independent Member).

**1. Council Statement re Standards of Conduct:** Members agreed a re-drafted statement for the Council, regarding its stance in relation to the ethical agenda, as set out below:

**North Yorkshire County Council believes in a strong ethical organisational culture. It aims to promote the highest levels of conduct by its members and officers, to increase public trust in the delivery of its vision and its objectives, by:**

- i) **maintaining openness and transparency in conducting its business;**
- ii) **being accountable for all it says and does;**
- iii) **ensuring that everyone knows what is expected of them;**
- iv) **offering appropriate training and development programmes; and**
- v) **promoting the work of its Standards Committee.**

The Committee is to consider the most effective ways of promoting the Statement, should it be approved by Council.

### **The Standards Committee RECOMMENDS:-**

That the Statement, outlined above, be approved.

**2. Statement for Stakeholders re Ethical Framework:** Members considered a draft statement for stakeholders of the Council's stance on ethical issues. The statement recommended is set out below:

**North Yorkshire County Council believes in a strong ethical culture. The conduct of its members and officers in fulfilling their roles is regulated by national Codes of Conduct and a comprehensive complaints framework.**

**Standards of behaviour within the Council are generally excellent: the Council continues, however, to promote the ethical agenda to ensure the existing high standards are maintained; and the Leader and Chief Executive Officer are committed to working together to lead by example and to uphold the ethical wellbeing and effective governance of the Council.**

**In working with partners and service providers on Council business, the Council requires similarly high standards from those with whom it works.**

### **The Standards Committee RECOMMENDS:-**

That the Statement for Stakeholders re ethical issues, as set out above, be approved.

18 July, 2007

**3. Review of Protocol for Member/Officer Relations:** as part of its work programme, the Standards Committee has undertaken a review of the Member/Officer Protocol and of the Guidance Protocol. The Guidance Protocol was reviewed in light of the adoption of the new Members' Code of Conduct and was agreed by full Council at its meeting on 16 May 2007. The Protocol for Member/Officer Relations has subsequently been reviewed and paragraph 8j, has been amended to reflect the new Code of Conduct in respect of Members' access to information and the new provisions in relation to disclosure of confidential information. Also, a sentence has been added at the end of paragraph 10b, to reflect that all Members are specifically bound by the Code of Conduct to observe the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. A copy of the protocol is attached as Appendix 1.

**The Standards Committee RECOMMENDS:-**

That the amended Protocol for Member and Officer Relations, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

**JAMES F S DAGLISH**  
Chairman of Standards Committee