

23 July, 2008

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

The Standard Committee met at County Hall, Northallerton on Monday, 2 June 2008. Present:- James F S Daghish (Independent Member) in the Chair. County Councillors Brian Marshall, J W Marshall and Peter Sowray; together with Gillian Fleming and Doctor Janet Holt (Independent Members).

**1. The Standards Committee Annual Report:** The Standards Committee agreed to present the Annual Report for 2007/08 to the full Council, appraising the Authority of the work of the Committee, as it assists in raising the profile and awareness of the Committee and ethical standards generally. The report is attached at Appendix 1 and highlights work undertaken by the Committee over the past year and potential future work.

A summary of the work undertaken in respect of the ethical audit, and the Action Plan developed in relation to that, are provided in the report. A copy of the full Action Plan is available from the Monitoring Officer.

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

That the Annual Report be noted.
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**2. Local Ethical Framework:** The Standards Committee considered the developments taking place on the locally managed ethical framework, full details of which are contained within the report which is attached as Appendix 2.

A number of key issues relevant to the establishment of the locally managed ethical framework require the consideration of the full County Council for these to be implemented. The recommendations of the Standards Committee in respect of those issues are set out below.

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

- (i) That there be an increase in the size and composition of the Standards Committee, as set out in paragraph 3.12 of appendix 2, and that the consequential amendments be made to article 9.02 of the Constitution as set out in paragraph 3.13 of appendix 2;
- (ii) That the power to arrange temporary appointments of other Authorities' Standards Committee's Independent Members to the Standards Committee be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee;
- (iii) That the following be established on the basis set out in paragraph 3.16 of appendix 2 :-
  - (a) A Complaint Assessment Sub-Committee;
  - (b) A Complaint Review Sub-Committee;
  - (c) A Complaint Determination Sub-Committee
- (iv) That the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committees detailed in Recommendation (iii) above be, respectively, as set out in proposed new paragraphs g), h) and i) of Article 9.03, detailed in paragraph 3.21 of appendix 2, be approved and included in the Constitution;
- (v) That Independent Members on the Council's Standards Committee be included within the Council's Indemnity Policy for Members and employees, subject to its terms;
- (vi) That Article 9.01 of the Constitution be amended as set out in paragraph 3.20 of appendix 2;
- (vii) That the Committee's Terms of Reference set out in Article 9.03 of the Constitution be amended as set out in paragraph 3.21 of appendix 2;
- (viii) That the functions of the Monitoring Officer set out in Articles 12.03 (d) and (e) of the Constitution be amended as set out in paragraph 3.25 of appendix 2; and
- (ix) That references be made, in the Constitution, to the existence and location of the Council's Whistle-blowing policies, anti-bullying policy, policies and procedures under the Equality Act 2006, list of Authority Services and the municipal calendar, as set out in paragraph 3.26.3 of appendix 2.

**3. Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality:** The Standards Committee considered the draft Protocol in relation to gifts and hospitality and recommended that it be submitted to full Council for adoption. A copy of the Protocol is attached as Appendix 3.

**The Standards Committee RECOMMENDS:-**

That the Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality, attached as Appendix 3 to this report, be approved and adopted by the County Council.

23 July, 2008

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON.

**3 July 2008**

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