

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 October 2007

Ethics Training

0.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on certain ethics training issues.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on 19 March 2007, the Committee agreed a Training Plan for Members on ethical issues, which has been amended over time as necessary. The current Training Plan is attached at Appendix 1, for Members' information.

3.0 TRAINING ISSUES

3.1 One of the matters listed in the Training Plan is the need to explore the possibility of joint training on the new Code of Conduct with neighbouring authorities. At the time of writing this report, liaison is currently underway with the Heads of Legal Services in neighbouring authorities and an oral update on this issue will be given at the meeting.

3.2 Regarding the ethics training to Officers, it was hoped to provide a suitable training session at an Autumn Management Seminar however there are no free slots until January next year. In order to take the matter forward, the aim now is for the Monitoring Officer to deliver one or two comprehensive training sessions for key Officers before the end of the year, covering both the Officers' and Members' Codes of Conduct and the Member/Officer Protocol. Members will be kept informed of progress.

3.3 Members previously agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 12 November should be a training session. Members are asked to consider a suitable subject area for the training; some suggestions are set out below:

From the Training Plan:

- a) the role of the Standards Committee (based on the Annual Assembly's workshop)
- b) the refresher training on quasi-judicial decision-making/local determinations

Other suggestions:

- c) general refresher training on the Officers' and Members' Codes of Conduct and the Member/Officer Protocol.

3.1 Further progress on the matters listed in the Training Plan will be reported orally to the meeting.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report and to determine an appropriate subject area for the Committee's training session on 12 November 2007.

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Background Documents:
None

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