

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 October 2007

**Standards Committee Work Programme**

**0.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To consider the Committee's Work Programme.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 At each of its meetings, the Standards Committee reviews its programme of work. The current Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 and the Ethical Audit Action Plan is attached at Appendix 2, for ease of reference.

2.2 The Work Programme and Action Plan incorporate the core items which were required to meet the Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry, as set out below:

Action Points

<u>NYCC Position</u>	<u>Action Points</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Members' Register of Interests	Easily accessible to members of the public	September 2006
Officer Register of Interests	Implement across Authority PO6 and above	September 2006
Leader and Chief Executive Officer	Roles in ethical agenda to be defined.	September 2006
Members' Code of Conduct	Integrated into diversity policies. Linkages between the Code of Conduct and FOI, HRA, SDA.	September 2006
Chief Executive Officer attends Standards Committee, promotes initiatives	Leader to have involvement in the promotion of ethics agenda	September 2006
Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer promote ethical agenda	Produce communications strategy	March 2007

2.3 The September 2006 deadline for the item re the Members' Code of Conduct was imposed by the previous Monitoring Officer. The item has now been re-prioritised for the Committee's meeting on 1 October 2007.

**3.0 WORK PROGRAMME**

3.1 For the sake of completeness, the Work Programme has been amended since the last meeting to incorporate "reporting back" items, which need to come

back to the Committee at a future date. This should provide an additional safeguard that such matters are monitored.

3.2 It is also suggested that in the future, the Work Programme should be compiled on the basis of a rolling 12 month Schedule. This will enable the Programme to give a clear overview of the Work undertaken by the Committee but, eventually, completed items will disappear from the live Programme and so keep it to a manageable length and content.

3.3 It appears that the agreement at the last meeting for quarterly meetings next year, rather than five meetings per year, may have missed the necessary administration slot, as five meetings have again been scheduled for 2008 on the following dates:

14 January  
3 March  
2 June  
1 September  
10 November

An appropriate way forward may be to allocate one of the scheduled meetings as a training session for the Committee.

3.4 It is further suggested that the Committee determines its future Work Programme for 2008 at its first meeting of the year on 14 January 2008.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Members are requested to note this report and to consider:

- a) whether future Work Programmes should be compiled on the basis of a rolling 12 month schedule; and
- b) whether to allocate one of the Committee's scheduled meetings for 2008 as a training session for the Committee.

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Background Documents:  
None

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