

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14 January 2008

Consultation Paper re standards issues

0.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of a consultation paper issued by Communities and Local Government on "Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England".

2.0 CONSULTATION PAPER

2.1 On 3 January 2008, the Government issued a consultation paper regarding "Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England". A copy of the consultation paper and the Government's covering letter to authorities is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 The consultation paper sets out, and seeks views on, the detailed arrangements proposed to be included in future legislation to allow for the operation of the new locally-based ethical framework, including:

- the operation of standards committees' powers to make initial assessments of misconduct allegations;
- the operation of other functions by standards committees and the Adjudication Panel in issuing penalties and sanctions;
- the operation of the Standards Board's revised strategic role to provide supervision, support and guidance for the regime;
- other matters, such as the rules on the granting of dispensations, the granting of exemptions of posts from political restrictions and the pay of local authority political assistants.

2.3 The deadline for responses to the consultation is 15 February 2008.

3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 Given the very recent launch of the consultation, at the time of writing this report the Monitoring Officer has not had the opportunity to analyse the issues raised in the paper. It is suggested that, subject to any views Members may have, the Monitoring Officer drafts a response to the paper in consultation with others as necessary.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members note this report and agree that the Monitoring Officer drafts a response to the paper in consultation with others as necessary.

CAROLE DUNN
Monitoring Officer

Author of report: Moira Beighton
Telephone: 01609 532458
Room 15

Background Documents:
None

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

7 January 2008

