

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2 February 2009

Standards Training Plan 2009

0.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on training issues and to set the Standards Training Plan for 2009.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Last year, the Standards Committee agreed a Training Plan for the Authority regarding the ethical framework, which was monitored throughout 2008.

3.0 TRAINING ISSUES

3.1 An updated Training Plan for 2009 is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' comments.

Standards Committee

3.2 The Committee now has three recently appointed Authority Members, County Councillors Jeffels, Seymour and Snowball and a new independent Member, Mr Henry Cronin.

3.3 A training session for the Committee was planned for last September but was later cancelled. Members are requested to consider whether there should be a general standards training session for the whole Committee, which would act as a refresher session for the longer standing Committee Members, or whether a smaller or individual session(s) with the Monitoring Officer should be arranged for the newer Members.

Independent Member Induction

3.4 The Committee previously agreed that the training needs of the new independent Member should be addressed once the individual had been appointed. Mr Henry Cronin was appointed by the County Council in December last year and is now warmly welcomed to the Committee.

3.5 The Standards Board Guidance on the Role and Make Up of Standards Committees contains recommendations as to the induction training for independent Members which should ideally be undertaken. This includes:

- Training on the Code of Conduct and Standards Committee functions;
- Attending meetings of the full Council, Executive, Planning Committee and of a relevant Overview And Scrutiny Committee;
- Receiving a copy of the Constitution (which should also include the Authority's scheme of delegations of functions, Whistle-blowing policies,

any policies and procedures under the Equality Act 2006, and the Authority's anti-bullying policy should also be included);

- Receiving a copy of the Code of Conduct;
- Receiving a copy of the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations and any other relevant Protocol;
- Receiving information re regional groups of independent Members.

The Monitoring Officer will supply the new independent Member with a copy of the Constitution and other appropriate documentation and will liaise with him, and any other independent Members on the Committee who wish to attend such meetings, in order to arrange for them to attend the range of meetings specified above.

Training to Members

3.6 Refresher standards training for Members and Officers of the Authority will be planned for after the County Council elections in June 2009, and once the outcome of the recent consultation paper on new Codes of Conduct for both Members and Officers is known. Refresher training can then be organised around any new Codes of Conduct produced.

3.7 Regarding the induction of new Members, this has been comprehensively considered at the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Member Induction Training Plan is being progressed and is the subject of a separate report by the Monitoring Officer to the Committee's meeting.

Training to Officers

3.8 A standards training session for Officers took place on 31 October 2008 and was well attended. Independent Members Mr Daghish and Dr Holt were also in attendance. The training covered both the Officers' and Members' Codes of Conduct, the Member/Officer Protocol and the principles of good decision-making. It is intended that the individuals who attended the session will cascade the training, as appropriate, throughout their Directorate.

3.9 The session was oversubscribed, therefore two further sessions have been arranged for 9 and 13 February 2009. Members of the Standards Committee are more than welcome to attend should they so wish.

3.10 Members will be kept informed of progress in relation to training issues.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That Members note this report.

4.2 That, subject to any comments they may have, Members agree the Standards Training Plan for 2009 as set out at Appendix 1.

4.2 That the Committee determines the nature of any standards training it requires.

4.3 That the Monitoring Officer liaises with the Committee's independent Members to arrange for them to attend, should they so wish, the range of meetings set out in paragraph 3.5 of this report.

CAROLE DUNN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:

None

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

22 January 2009