

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### STANDARDS COMMITTEE

13 September 2010

#### **Standards Committee Ongoing Matters**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members on progress in relation to certain items listed in the Standards Committee's Work Programme.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following items are listed in the Standards Committee Work Programme to be discussed at the Committee's September meeting:

- Citizens' Panel Questionnaire - Report from Monitoring Officer as to whether it is an appropriate time to repeat the survey.
- Joint Standards Committees - Report from Monitoring Officer as to results of further consideration of opportunities for joint standards working.
- Joint Standards Working - Report from Monitoring Officer as to opportunities to work with other authorities in the promotion of ethical standards.
- Local Authority Partners' ethical obligations - Report from Monitoring Officer as to ways in which NYCC could ensure partners had appropriate ethical principles in place.

- 2.2 Given that the present situation is similar for all these issues, it was thought sensible to report on them in one report.

#### **3.0 UPDATE**

- 3.1 Members have previously considered reports on the issues set out in paragraph 2.1 above and agreed to keep them under review over time. The matters have now come forward in the Committee's Work Programme for consideration as to whether the time is right to pursue those matters further.

- 3.2 Given the Government's intention to "abolish the Standards Board regime", it is not recommended that Citizens' Panel Questionnaire on the ethical framework be repeated at this time, nor that any joint standards working methods be explored, as such endeavours may prove abortive in the event that the framework changes in the near future. It is recommended that the Committee awaits clarification of the changes to the regime and what these will entail before further considering such issues.

- 3.3 Regarding 'Local Authority Partners' ethical obligations', the Monitoring Officer is liaising with officers dealing with partnership governance work regarding ways in which the Council's ethical statements and other standards documentation could be incorporated within such governance work.

3.4 These issues will be factored into the Committee's 2011 Work Programme and Members will be kept informed of any developments in the meantime.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That Members note this report.

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

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

#### **Background Documents:**

Standards Committee Work Programme  
Standards Committee minutes of meeting

25 August 2010