

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

31 October 2011

Members' Attendance Records - Request from Audit Committee**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise of a request for this Committee to report to the Audit Committee, once per year, concerning the action which the Standards Committee undertakes in reviewing Members' attendance records.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 One of the roles of the Audit Committee is "In respect of Corporate Governance:- to assess the effectiveness of the County Council's Corporate Governance arrangements; to review progress on the implementation of Corporate Governance arrangements throughout the County Council; ... and to liaise, as necessary, with the Standards Committee on any matter(s) relating to the Codes of Conduct for both Members and Officers".
- 2.2 At the Audit Committee meeting on 29 September 2011, a Member questioned whether the Standards Committee reviewed Members' attendance records. Mr Henry Cronin (Chairman of the Standards Committee and also External Member of the Audit Committee) confirmed that the Standards Committee considered Members' attendance records on an annual basis. The Audit Committee resolved:-

"That the Standards Committee be requested to report to the Audit Committee, once per year, concerning the actions the Standards Committee has undertaken in reviewing Members' attendance records".

3.0 ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Standards Committee is asked to consider whether it agrees, in principle, to report to the Audit Committee on an annual basis concerning the action it has taken in reviewing Members' attendance records.
- 3.2 If the Standards Committee is minded to approve the request, it is further invited to consider the time of year when it wishes to report. Therefore the Audit Committee can record the Standards Committee's report in its Programme of Work. There are four options, which are set out below:-
- ◆ Report to be drafted by mid February (for consideration by the Audit Committee at its meeting in early March).
 - ◆ Report to be drafted by the end of March (for consideration by the Audit Committee at its meeting in April).
 - ◆ Report to be drafted by early September (for consideration by the Audit Committee at its meeting at the end of September).
 - ◆ Report to be drafted by mid November (for consideration by the Audit Committee at its meeting in December).

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request from the Audit Committee and, if appropriate, decide on the time of year it wishes to report to the Audit Committee.

CAROLE DUNN
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Author of Report: Ruth Gladstone (Principal Committee Administrator)

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

21 October 2011

Background Documents: Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 29 September 2011, a copy of which is available for inspection in Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Northallerton.