



**AGENDA ITEM : 6**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**12 JUNE 2007**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME 2006/7 and 2007/8**

**RICHARD G LONG,  
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To provide the committee with details of work undertaken during 2006/2007 and to provide information to assist in the consideration of topics for inclusion in the committee's work programme for 2007/2008.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The committee agreed at the start of the 2006/2007 municipal year that, in addition to dealing with investigations and other urgent matters, an annual work programme be developed to provide a more structured focus to the work of the committee.
3. A number of possible topics were proposed and Members' views sought on other areas for consideration that they considered to be important to the work of the committee and the Council. The issues considered and the actions taken are detailed below :

Topic	Action
Annual Report to Council	Standards Committee 12/6/07 - Draft presented
Annual Ombudsman's Report	Standards Committee 5/9/06. Update on case of maladministration also reported 6/12/06
Review of Complaints Procedures	Standards Committee 6/12/06  Revised procedures for all three stages of complaints now approved and adopted by Council

	Unreasonably Persistent Complainants and Vexatious Complaints Policy considered and approved 6/12/06
Review of Ombudsman Complaints and Stage 3 Complaints	See above
Review of Members' Interests/Gifts and Hospitality	Standards Committee 5/9/06 - Protocol agreed Update reported 6/12/06 Review of Registers – to be completed
Training – Standards Committee (e.g. Mock Hearing)	Stockton Council in the process of arranging a training session for Tees Valley authorities
Training – Councillors– Ethics/Code of Conduct	Induction process for newly appointed and re-elected Members held over three weeks in May 2007 following the elections
Training – Co-opted Members / Parish Councils – Ethics/Code of Conduct	To be actioned
Code of Conduct for Non-Voting Co-opted Members and Advisers	To be actioned. Co-opted members both voting and non-voting members to be asked to sign up to the new Code of Conduct
Service Assurance Statement – Statement of Internal Control/ Financial Governance arrangements	Audit Committee established May 2007. Scrutiny audit function will also continue via the scrutiny process
Procurement Process	Standards Committee 6/12/06
Member Development Strategy 2006/7 and 2007/8	2006/7 – Member training in regard to quasi judicial meetings: Planning and Development – 18/5/07  Licensing Committee – various aspects – 11/5/07 – Gambling Act 2005 20/6/07 – Licensing General 22/6/07 – Licensing Act 2003 29/6/07 – Gambling Act 2005 – Further Training  Staff Appeals – in hand  Complaints and Appeals – in hand  2007/8 Strategy to be agreed.
Code of Conduct for Employees	Still to be actioned – dependent upon central government timetable
Corporate Governance	Review to be conducted 2007/8
Review Member/Officer Protocol	To be actioned
CPA Outcome	To be actioned
Review of Constitution	Constitution Committee now established. This committee will conduct a full review during 2007/8 and report progress to this

	committee
Review of Officer Scheme of Delegation	To be actioned
Protocol on Mayoral/ Civic Gifts	Standards Committee 5/9/06 Protocol agreed
Indemnities for Members	Standards Committee 5/9/06
Review Use of Whistle-Blowing Policy	Standards Committee 6/12/06
Adjudication Panel and Standard Board Decisions	Bulletins issued November 2006 and Feb and May 2007
Review of Guidance Licensing and Planning	Standards Committee 8/5/06  Planning Protocol updated 5/9/06 Update given 6/12/06  Licensing Protocol update to be agreed 12/6/07

4. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to include any of the matters in the above table not covered during the year 2007/2008 and to offer suggestions for future topics.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. Members' views are requested regarding the determination of topics to be included in the committee's work programme for 2007/2008.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Standards Committee Minutes 2006/2007

## **AUTHOR**

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