

Subject: WORK PROGRAMME FOR
JULY 2006 – JULY 2007

Status: For Publication

Report to: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: 22nd August 2006

Report of: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Portfolio

Holder: Duncan Ruddick

Key Decision:

NO

Forward Plan
Relevant Box

General Exception

Special Urgency

“X” In

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To suggest that the Standards Committee agrees a work programme for the year.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- *The Council is committed to high standards of ethical governance and good governance principles agreeing a work plan and organising events training will ensure all members of the Council improve their ethical governance standards.*
- *Member Development is a Corporate priority, training has been organised for this year on ethical governance and risk management. More training/shared learning is essential to improve the Council's ethical/good governance standards.*

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic services is suggesting that the Committee agrees a work plan for the year to organise the Committees and ensure they are effectively utilised.
- 4.2 There is a real role for the Standards Committee over the next year. We should look at the role/functions of the Standards Committee within the Constitution, consider good practice and suggest any amendments to the Constitutional working group. Look at issues such as member officer relations. Declarations of interest/monitoring/promoting the Code of Conduct. Training on these areas for all Members including the Town Council is essential.

5. COMMENTS OF HEAD OF FINANCE

- 5.1 No comments.

6. COMMENTS OF HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 6.1 Member Development is a Corporate Priority shared learning is essential for the development of the Organisation.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 To improve the role and function of the Standards Committee it is essential that a work programme is agreed.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That the Committee considers the draft work programme makes any necessary amendments and adopts it for the year.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 9.1 Democratic Services Manager
The Chair of Standards Committee

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No background papers

WORK PROGRAMME FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE JULY 2006 – JULY 2007.

1. To receive future reports in December 2006 and July 2007 on use of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.
2. To receive reports from the Council's Monitoring Officer on any cases referred to the Standards Board. Details to deal with only the substance of the allegation/to be confidential and deal with the point of referral and any decision of the Standard Board – quarterly update.
3. To arrange at least 2 training sessions (one on 31st July 2006 on Ethical Governance) to ensure training on Ethical Governance for all Members. (Risk management assessment training also arranged.
4. To consider reports of the Constitutional Working Group relating to amendments to the Constitution.
5. To review the current role and function of the Standards Committee. August 2006.
6. To consider the use of internal and external auditors, scrutiny and Committee administration to promote high ethical Standards across the Council.
7. To devise a programme of lectures to our external partners – e.g. LSP, Leisure Trust/Whitworth Town Council to promote the Code of Conduct.
8. To consider and comment on the current Members Allowance Scheme.
9. To review employee/member protocols related to Standards e.g. IT Policy/use of telephones/computer for personal calls/photocopying.
10. To monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.