

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

ROLE AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT
--

- | |
|---|
| <p>1.1 To develop further the role and working arrangements of the Standards Committee.</p> |
|---|

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 This is a further report to move forward some of the proposals which have previously been discussed.
- 2.2 At its last meeting the Committee agreed that officers and the Chair and Vice Chair meet to prepare a formal work plan for the Committee.
- 2.3 As part of that work plan it is proposed that the following issues which were put forward for further consideration be developed.
- a) the enhancement of the council's website including the publication of the register of members' interests. The content of the website will be discussed as a separate agenda item and proposals made can be included in the work plan
 - b) decision records of assessments, reviews and determinations are accessible documents. Setting up appropriate processes to disseminate this information can be added to the work programme with guidance from the committee
 - c) it has been agreed that an annual report be prepared. This could be for the municipal year as in the case of the Monitoring Officer report which it will replace. Again along with meetings with the Chief Executive and Group Leaders and Whips and presentation of the report to council this will need to be added to the programme
 - d) processes will also need to be included as regards publicity material to be inserted in Direct magazine and distribution of bulletins etc from Standards for England

- e) plans for surveying public perception of standards and those participating in complaints need to be developed in the programme together with standards in partnership working arrangements
- f) training can form part of the programme. As regards members an ongoing corporate training programme is in place and standards forms part of the induction training. Training for town/parish councillors is given from time to time through sessions at the Town and Parish Liaison Committee and a recent pilot training exercise took place for town/parish clerks. A copy of the presentation is enclosed. Training by an external party for investigations may be able to be arranged jointly with North East Lincolnshire Council

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The proposals have been agreed in principle and need to be moved forward through the work programme.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 4.1 Implementation of these issues will be carried out within current financial, staffing and IT resources

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 5.1 None

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 6.1 None to date

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To consider the steps to be taken

SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC

Pittwood House
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
DN16 1AB
Author: Mike Wood
25 May 2007

Background Papers - Nil