

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	2 September 2010

Report template revised February 2007



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
PROGRESS AGAINST ACTION PLAN FOR PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS	NOT APPLICABLE	DAVID WHELAN	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

It is considered that the administration of the Standards regime impacts on a number of the Corporate priorities – in particular “Efficient, effective and exceptional Council.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Standards Committee consider the six monthly progress report and make comment as they see appropriate

DETAILS AND REASONING

As members will no doubt recall on the 3 September 2009 Standards Committee approved an action plan for promoting and achieving high ethical standards.

On the 4 March 2010 Standards Committee considered a six monthly report on progress made against this action plan.

Attached to this report at Appendix 1 members will find a second six monthly report on progress made against the action plan.

Overall it is considered that good progress has been made.

Areas of Significant Progress/Achievement

- Training has been provided for Town/Parish Councillors and Clerks from the Lancashire area
- A Town and Parish Council Charter is being finalised
- The Constitution has been reviewed and updated
- Members elected in by elections continue to receive one to one awareness raising sessions
- An item will be appearing in the September edition of Forward dealing with the findings of the Citizen Panel survey on Councillor behaviour

- An annual report on Standards will be considered by full Council on the 8 September 2010
- Preparatory work is being carried out for Member Induction after the May 2011 local elections
- Members continue to seek advice from officers on a regular basis as to whether to declare an interest or not

Areas of Action

- More work needs to be done to assess the feasibility of using social networking techniques to promote high ethical standards
- The training programme (for members and officers) to cover the whole ambit of standards and ethical issues needs to be finalised
- Further work is required on our approach to ethical issues in partnerships

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	There are no financial implications.		
LEGAL	<p>The statutory role of a Standards Committee is not merely to deal with complaints about members – it also has a duty to promote high standards.</p> <p>In this context It is imperative that the Council’s Standards Committee should continue to be perceived as being proactive in seeking to ensure that high ethical standards are both achieved and maintained by all members and officers of this Council.</p>		
RISK	<p>A failure to maintain high ethical standards could result in reputational damage for the Council.</p> <p>Clearly we must ensure that the public continue to have confidence in the way the Council conducts its business.</p>		
OTHER (see below)			
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings</i>	<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>
<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>
<i>Respect Agenda</i>	<i>Staffing</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Training and Development</i>