

**CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF
DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD**

STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE: 27 November 2007

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AGENDA ITEM: 9

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider and update the Committee's Work Programme for 2007/08.

Background

2. The Standards and Ethics Committee's Terms of Reference provide the Committee with responsibility in the following areas:-
 - To monitor and scrutinise the ethical standards of the Authority, its Members, employees and any associated providers of the Authority's services and to report to the Council on any matters of concern.
 - The content and updating of the Council's Ethical Code and advise on the effective implementation of the Code.
 - To consider and determine the outcome of complaints in respect of breaches of the Code of Conduct
 - To oversee and monitor the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and procedures.
 - To grant or refuse requests for dispensation.
3. The Committee at its meeting on 20 March 2007 considered and updated its Draft Work Programme for 2007 and agreed to include as a regular item for future meetings.
4. The updated work programme based on the Committee's Terms of Reference is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Issues

5. The work programme and the prioritisation of its work is largely a matter for the Committee to decide. The work programme is a working document and as such the Committee can prioritise or update the items as necessary.

Financial & Legal Implications

6. There are none arising from this report.

Recommendations

7. That the draft programme of work set out in Appendix 1 be considered by the Committee and any necessary action arising from the work programme be agreed.

KATE BERRY

Monitoring Officer and City and County Solicitor

21November 2007

**APPENDIX 1
STANDARDS COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME – 2007/08**

ITEM	BACKGROUND/ACTION REQUIRED	TERM(S) OF REFERENCE	COMMITTEE TARGET DATE
Whistleblowing Policy	<p>The Whistleblowing Policy will now be included in the Media Core Brief which is circulated to all staff.</p> <p>The Committee requested an annual report from the Monitoring Officer on the issues reported under the Policy.</p>	(e)	<p>On-going Core Brief</p> <p>September 2008</p>
Planning Code of Practice	<p>Arising from recommendations in the Welsh Audit Report, a Code of Practice for Planning was currently being developed. Deidre Jones was nominated to join the Group for joint discussions on developing the Code and Action Plan. The Committee noted this work would be ongoing and agreed to place on the Agenda of its meeting in May 2007.</p>	(a) (c) (h)	January 2008 Update
Regular Meeting with Whips	<p>The Committee held its second meeting with Party Whips in May 2007 and following constructive discussions, it was agreed that regular meetings would continue</p>		January 2008
Member Development	<p>Members of Council require training on the code and specific training relating to planning matters as recommended in the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) Report. It was noted that the revised Code of Conduct was awaited. Member</p>	(b)	<p>November 2007</p> <p>Regular Agenda Item on the Governance</p>

	<p>development was linked into the Governance Programme and should remain as a regular item on the Agenda. A training programme would need to be developed to introduce the new Code to all Members.</p> <p>A comprehensive report would be submitted to the Committee in November 2007.</p>		Programme
Revised Code of Conduct	<p>At it's meeting in July 2007, the Committee was advised that it was unlikely that the Code would be published before May 2008 as a result of delays in importing legislative changes to the English Code.</p> <p>A Draft revised Code has been made available by the Monitoring Officers Group.</p>	(b) (c)	November 2007
Developing Relationships and understanding work of Community Councils	<p>Members consider it a high priority to develop closer working relationships with Community Councils and to raise the profile of the Standards and Ethics Committee.</p> <p>Community Councils have been invited to a Forum preceding the November meeting of the Committee.</p>		November 2007
Ethical Audit	<p>The Committee undertook an Ethical Audit last year and committed to undertaking a further review after 12 months.</p>	(a)	January 2008
Hospitality Register	<p>The revised threshold recommended by the Standards and Ethics</p>	(h)	June 2008

	<p>Committee was approved by Council in October 2007. The Committee has requested six monthly summary reports on registrations.</p>		
<p>Relationship with Media</p>	<p>The Corporate Governance Commission Report highlighted the importance of the role of the media in supporting standards in public life. The Committee considered this Item at its meeting in July 2007 when it received a presentation from Officers of the Communications Section. The Committee received a further presentation by the Communications Section at its meeting in September 2007 following which the Committee agreed to revisit in March 2008.</p>		<p>March 2008</p>
<p>Governance Programme</p>	<p>Committee to receive regular updates on progress of the Governance Programme.</p> <p>Update on status of the recommendations in the Governance report will be reported to the November 2007 meeting.</p>		<p>November 2007</p> <p>Regular on-going item</p>
<p>Public Ombudsman for Wales</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to invite the Ombudsman to give a presentation to a future meeting to outline their role and responsibilities.</p> <p>Extracts from the Ombudsman's annual report were requested by the Committee and were forwarded to the Committee by Committee Services.</p>		<p>January 2008</p>

The Cardiff Undertaking	To consider and recommend any suggested changes to Council.		January 2008