

**MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
REPORT FOR RESOLUTION**

COMMITTEE: Standards Committee

DATE: 15 January 2007

SUBJECT: Raising the Profile of Ethical Standards, Conduct and Behaviour Across the Council

REPORT OF: The City Solicitor

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform members of the Standards Committee of the proposals regarding the raising of the profile of ethical standards, conduct and behaviour across the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To endorse the proposals set out in the appendix to this report.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR REVENUE BUDGET:

None at present

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR CAPITAL BUDGET:

None

WARDS AFFECTED:

All

IMPLICATIONS FOR:

Antipoverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	No	No	No

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Reports to the Standards Committee on 13 March and 12 September 2006.

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Background

1. On 12 September 2006 members of the Standards Committee considered a report on the work being undertaken to review and develop the Council's ethical governance arrangements. It was noted that the purpose of the work was to ensure that the Council is placed in a sound position in relation to any future performance assessments.

Ethical Standards, Conduct and Behaviour Across the Council

2. There are a number of projects currently being undertaken in connection with the raising of the profile of ethical standards, conduct and behaviour across the Council. The existing code of conduct for members is currently being revised and a new code is due to be issued for consultation on 12 January 2007 for adoption at the Council's annual general meeting in May 2007. The changes will be communicated to members through a series of training sessions provided by the Council's Democratic Services section. There are also changes to the ethical framework set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which is the subject of a separate report to the Standards Committee.
3. A new code of conduct for officers is expected to be issued shortly. The changes will be communicated to officers through a series of training sessions. Once the revised code has been issued a report on the changes will be brought back to the Standards Committee.
4. An extensive review of the governance of the Council's partnerships is also currently taking place.

The Ethical Framework and Codes of Conduct

5. In addition to the projects referred to above, it is proposed that the Council addresses the raising of the profile of ethical standards and codes of conduct through the activities and communication strategy listed in the appendix to this report.
6. Members of the Standards Committee are asked to consider and endorse the proposals set out in the appendix and provide any comments that they may have.

1. Members Code of Conduct and Ethical Framework

Audience	Activity
Proposals to Raise the Profile with Officers	Council wide Team Brief
	Presentation to SMT
	Articles in Cascade including Interviews with the Monitoring Officer and independent members
	Create pages on the Council's intranet
	Broadcast e-mails
	New section included in the Council's induction programme and management induction
	E-learning module to be added to existing local government module
	Ethical Standards annual report to SMT
	Governance launch – joint event promoting the revised members/officers codes
	Consider adoption of Monitoring Officer protocol
Proposals to Raise the Profile with Members	Ethical standards annual report to full Council
	Mandatory annual ethical governance training for members
	In connection with the adoption of the revised codes – awareness campaign and training
	Induction training for new members
	Member development
	Quarterly news letter to members on developments around ethical framework
	Governance launch – joint event promoting the revised members/officers codes
	Consider expanding remit of the Standards Committee e.g. to the officer code
	Standard Committee events e.g. meet the Committee's independent members; speakers from the Standards Board
Proposals to Raise the Profile with the Public	Media
	internet
	Leaflets / posters
	Disseminate annual report to library's etc.
	Manchester People
	Ward newsletters

2. Officer Code of conduct

Audience	Activity
Proposals to Raise the Profile with Officers	Council wide team brief
	Presentation to SMT
	Articles in Cascade
	Create pages on Intranet
	Broadcast e-mails
	New section included in the Council's induction programme and management induction
	E-learning module to be added to existing local government module
	Programme of training
	Governance launch – joint event promoting the revised members/offices codes
	Poster leaflet campaign