Ethical Governance Light Touch Health Check

Areas for	Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible
Improvement 1. Leadership, Behave	iour and Style		
(a) The profile of the Standards Committee	Meetings between Chair of Standards Committee ("Chair") and Deputy Leader to be arranged.	2007/08 on a quarterly basis	DOLD
	Meetings between Chair and Chair of Executive Scrutiny Committee to be arranged.	2007/08 on a quarterly basis	DOLD/HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Chair and DOLD to attend HODS (individual/ separate) meetings with political Group Leaders.	2007/08 on a quarterly basis	DOLD/HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Chair to present the Standards Committee's Annual Report to: • Audit Committee • Cabinet		
	Full Council	July/August 2007	Chair/DOLD
	Highlight key items on Standards Committee agendas both before and after meetings via e-genda link (for Members/ Officers/Town & Parish Councils).	2007/08	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Chair to attend the Annual Meeting of Council.	23 May 2007	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Chair to move Standards Committee minutes at full Council meetings.	2007/08	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Pre-meetings (with Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee) to be arranged before each Committee meeting.	2007/08	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Non-Councillor Members	2007/08	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services

of the Standards Committee to observe standards of conduct at: • Full Council meetings • Planning Committee with a view to reporting back to the next following Standards Committee meeting		and Development
A review of community engagement activities be undertaken to assess whether and to what extent there is a standards and probity role which needs to be fulfilled.	2007/08	HODS/Team Leader Electoral, Civic & Community Engagement
Visits to Town/Parish Councils by Standards Committee Members to be arranged.	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/HODS
A Standards Committee Communications Strategy to be developed including information articles (eg on the new code of conduct) in KYIT and Stockton News.	July 2007	DOLD/Publicity and
See also:- • Employees' Action Plan at 2(a), (b), 3(d), (e), (f), 5(a) and 8(a).		Marketing Manager
Elected and Co-opted Members Action Plan at 1(a), (b), (c) and 3(a).		
Key Partners Action Plan at 2(a) and (b).		
Present the Monitoring Officer Annual Report to: • Audit Committee • Standards Committee • Full Council	July/August 2007	DOLD/Chair
A special meeting of full Council to be arranged to consider and adopt the new Code of Conduct.	2007/08	DOLD/Chair/Team

	Standards and ethics, including information about the Standards Committee to be incorporated into Employee/Management development and training	2007/00	leader Democratic Services and Development
	programmes.	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/Training and Organisational Development
(b) Independent Members access to Council information	The availability of intranet access through Democratic Services to be highlighted.	2007/08	Team Leader, Democratic Services and Development
(c) The relationship between the Standards Committee and the Executive	Deputy Leader to be confirmed as "Ethics Champion" in the Executive and the Deputy Leader portfolio to be amended accordingly.	June 2007	DOLD
	See also 1(a).		
(d) Perceptions about Officers' support to Members as a whole.	A report to be submitted to the Members' Advisory Panel regarding: Scrutiny press releases responses to Member		DOLD/HODS/Team Leader Scrutiny and Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	enquiries		
2. Communication	on		
(a) Availability and accessibility of information about standards and ethics.	Review existing information on:- • internet • intranet	July 2007	DOLD/Members and Civic Services Officer
	Populate the internet and intranet with appropriate information on standards and ethics.	August 2007	DOLD/Members and Civic Services Officer
(b) The number of different protocols and guidance notes about gifts and hospitality (Officers and Members) (and see 5(a) also)	Review the current protocols and guidance regarding:- • Officers' gifts and hospitality • Members' gifts and	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
(3	hospitality		

Revise (as appropriate) and reissue the protocols and guidance on Officers and Members gifts and hospitality.	September 2007 (following introduction of new Code of Conduct)	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
Produce a route map/flow chart.	September 2007	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development

(c) The numbers of different protocols and guidance about interests in contracts etc (Officers).	Review the existing guidance and procedures relating to interests.	July 2007	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Revise and reissue (as appropriate) the guidance and procedures.	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Produce a route map/flow chart	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
(d) The dissemination of information about Officers:- • gifts and	Circulate the revised guidance and procedures.	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
hospitality interests in contracts etc	Issue a related Message of the Day regarding the guidance and procedures.	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
(e) The publicity protocol relating to Select Committee press releases.	Review the Select Committee publicity protocol.		HODS/Team Leader Scrutiny
(f) The nature of the language used in the guidance on standards and ethics.	Review the potential for crystal marking protocols and guidance.	July/August 2007	HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Assess the potential for using the Plain English Campaign information and guides.	July/August 2007	HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
3. Relationships	I		
(a) The Standards Committee's relationship with other parts of the Council.	See actions proposed 1(a) and (c).		
(b) Members' understanding of Officers' roles and the Councillor/Officer relationship.	See actions proposed in the Elected and Co-opted Members Action Plan at 4(a).		

(c) Employees' (below 4th Tier) understanding of Councillor/Officer roles and relationships.	See actions proposed in Employees Action Plan at 5(a) and (b) and 6(a).		
(d) Public perception of the Planning Committee (to be tied into the	See action proposed at 1(a) Strengthen the Planning	May 2007	HOLS/Principal
improvement plan arising from the Planning Peer Review).	Committee training to take account of the Light Touch Health Check feedback and feedback from the Planning Peer Review	Iviay 2007	Solicitor (Planning)/Head of Planning/Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Establish procedures to ensure 100% take up of planning training by all Members who are required to attend and that such attendance is for the whole of each session.	May 2007	HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Provide regular mandatory refresher training sessions.	2007/08	HOLS/Principal Solicitor (Planning)/Head of Planning/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Make appropriate training on chairing Committees available to both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee.	May/June 2007	HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Discuss the feedback from the Health Check and the Planning Peer Review and related Member conduct with the Chair and Vice- Chair of the Committee after the elections.	June/July 2007	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)
	Review pre-meeting communication and information provision arrangements to identify any areas for improvement.	May/June 2007	HOLS/Principal Solicitor (Planning)/Head of Planning/

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Discuss the feedback from Light Touch Health Check, the Planning Peer Review and related Member conduct with all of the Planning Committee after the elections.	June/July 2007 (before the first appropriate meeting)	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)
Arrangements be made for all Planning Committee Members to attend each Committee meeting in advance of the publicised start time, in order to receive details of appropriate updates, supplementary information and other relevant details.	2007/08	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)/ HODS
As part of the Committee's training and development, arrangements be made to visit completed developments previously given permission by Members/Officers.	2007/08	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)/ HODS
Review process for formulating and recording reasons for refusal.	May/June 2007	HOLS/Principal Solicitor (Planning)/Head of Planning/HODS
The Planning Committee attend one or more Planning Committees at other authorities where meeting arrangements and procedures are recognised as representing best practice, in order to see those Committees in action.	2007/08	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)/ HODS
A review of the Committee's scheme of delegation be undertaken with a view to any recommendations for change being submitted to the Committee, Cabinet	2007/08	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)/ HODS

	and Council for consideration. The Planning code of good practice be reviewed in light of the CLG Report on Councillor Involvement in Planning Decisions, with a view to any recommended changes being reported to the Committee, Cabinet and	2007/08	Head of Planning/ HOLS/ Principal Solicitor (Planning)
	Council for consideration.		
4. Accountability	1	I	1
(a) Satisfaction with the arrangements for callin.	Research the basis and procedures for call-in in other Authorities.	July 2007	HODS/Team Leader Scrutiny
111.	Review the basis and procedures for Call-In at Stockton	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Scrutiny
	Report findings to MAP/Executive Scrutiny	September 2007	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Scrutiny
5. Management of			
(a) The process for receiving and recording Members' interests, including gifts and hospitality (and see 2(b) also)	Review the arrangements for receiving and recording Members' interests, including gifts and hospitality, with particular reference to:-	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	 the nature and extent of the information to be provided; the format(s) to be used when returning/ registering information; and the register or registers to be used. 		
(b) Guidance for	See actions proposed at	ı	1

Members regarding gifts and hospitality.	2(b) and 5(a).		
(c) Guidance for Officers regarding gifts and hospitality.	See actions proposed at 2(b)		
(d) The content of the Members' Gifts and Hospitality Register/returns.	Review/monitor the nature and extent of the detail of the returns being provided.	When returns are received and formally on a quarterly basis.	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
(e) The arrangements for reviewing both Officers and Members interests and gifts and hospitality registers.	Review/monitor the following registers on a quarterly basis:- Officers Interests Gifts and Hospitality Members Interests Gifts and Hospitality (if separate)	Quarterly	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
	Report additions/new items to the Standards Committee.	Quarterly	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
(f) Openness and transparency regarding Members' interests and gifts and hospitality.	Consider the potential for publishing Officer and Member registers of interests and gifts and hospitality on the Council's website.	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
(g) Informal arrangements for addressing concerns about Member conduct.	Discussions regarding options for informal resolution of concerns about Member conduct to continue.	As and when required during 2007/08	Political Group Leaders/DOLD/HOLS/ HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
6. Team Working			
(a) Training for Parish Councillors on Standards.	Provide training opportunities for Parish Councillors on standards.	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Circulate information to Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors on Standards.	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Signpost Parish Clerks	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/

	and Parish Councils to information on standards on the Council's website.		Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
(b) Take-up of Member training	Review the nature and extent of mandatory training.	April 2007	HODS/HOLS/DOLD/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Monitor take-up of training by Members.	On an ongoing basis and formally on a quarterly basis, throughout 2007/08	HODS/HOLS/DOLD/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Review the take-up and impact of the post-election induction training	August 2007	
	Provide full induction training to Councillors elected at by-elections.	As and when required	HODS/HOLS/DOLD/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
			HODS/HOLS/DOLD/ All Services/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
(c) Resources for new standards obligations.	Review the resources available to meet standards obligations when the new code of		
	conduct is issued, and also prior to the introduction of the enhanced Standards	May/June 2007	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development
	Committee role	May/June 2008	DOLD/HOLS/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services & Development

Ethical Governance Questionnaire

Elected and Co-opted Members

Areas for Improvement	Key Actions	By when	Who is Responsible
1. Members' 'Code o'	l Conduct		
(a) Understanding of the Code of Conduct	See (b) and (c) below		
	Report details of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed new code/the new code to:-		DOLD/HOLS
	now dode to.	May - July 2007	
	 Members Advisory Panel ("MAP") Standards Committee Audit Committee Cabinet 	May – July 2007 May - July 2007 May - July 2007 May – July 2007	
	Council	May – July 2007	DOLD/HOLS
	Circulate details of, and guidance about the proposed new code to all Councillors and co-opted members ("Members")	Throughout 2007/08	DOLD/HOLS
	Signpost Members to external sources of information and guidance on the new Code of Conduct	May – July 2007	DOLD/HOLS
	Provide all Members with a copy of the new Code of Conduct adopted by the Council	May – July 2007	DOLD/HOLS
	Ensure all Members sign an undertaking to abide by the Council's new code of conduct		
(b) Training regarding the Code of Conduct	Provide induction training on the Code post elections – all Members invited	10 May, 2007	DOLD/HOLS
	Deliver follow up training sessions on the Code	During the period 1 June – 1 October 2007	DOLD/HOLS

(c) Availability of advice on the Code of Conduct and conflicts of interest	Post elections circulate details of where advice on the Code can be obtained and how	31 May, 2007	DOLD/HOLS
	Circulate reminders of where to access advice	1June, 2007 – 31 March, 2008	DOLD/HOLS
2. Constitutional Fran	mework	1	
(a) Understanding of the constitutional framework e.g. Constitution; Terms of Reference for Cabinet etc	Provide induction training post elections – all Members invited	9 May, 2007	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
3. Ethical Framework	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
(a) Understanding of the Ethical framework e.g. the	Circulate information about the ethical framework.	During 2007/08 on ongoing basis	DOLD/HOLS
Standards Board and Standards Committee roles	Signpost Members to external sources of information and guidance. See also Light Touch	During 2007/08 on ongoing basis	DOLD/HOLS
	Health Action Plan Post election induction training	9 and 10 May, 2007	DOLD/HOLS
4. Member and Office	er Roles		
(a) Understanding of roles and responsibilities of:-	Induction Training post elections	8, 9, 10 and 14 May, 2007	Corporate Management Team
Cabinet Members	Executive Briefing	25 May, 2007	Corporate Management
Head of Paid Services	Circulate information about Cabinet Members'	June, 2007	Team/ HODS
Section 151 Officer	roles and responsibilities		HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services and
Monitoring Officer	Circulate details of Statutory Officers' roles and responsibilities	June, 2007	Development DOLD
	Populate website with relevant details of Statutory Officers' roles	June, 2007	DOLD/Member
	and responsibilities	Luca 2007	and Civic Services Officer
	Signpost Members to details of Statutory	June, 2007	

	Officers and their responsibilities	DOLD
(b) Members' engagement with the Scrutiny function and process		HODS/Team Leader Scrutiny

Ethical Governance Questionnaire

Employees

Areas for Improvement	Key Actions	By when	Who is Responsible
1. Values			
(a) Awareness of general principles of conduct for	Disseminate details of the general principles	July 2007	DOLD/HOLS
Councillors	Signpost access to the general principles	July 2007	DOLD/HOLS
(b) Awareness of the Council's core purpose and values	Circulate information about the core purpose and values	April - June 2007	Corporate Management Team/ Extended Management Team/Setting the Standard
	Signpost access to the relevant details	April - June 2007	Corporate Management Team/ Extended Management Team/Setting the Standard
(c) Awareness of the Council's core management principles	Disseminate details of the principles	April - June 2007	Corporate Management Team/ Extended Management Team/Setting the Standard
	Signpost access to the relevant information	April - June 2007	Corporate Management Team/ Extended Management Team/Setting the Standard

2. Standards of Conduct				
(a) The availability of advice and support on standard issues	Publicise information about where advice and support can be obtained	May - June 2007	DOLD/HOLS	
	Issue appropriate reminders	June 2007- March 2008	DOLD	
(b) The provision of relevant training on issues relating to standards of conduct	Review existing information on the intranet and develop further guidance	July 2007	DOLD/Members & Civic Services Officer	
	Circulate relevant information	May - July 2007	DOLD	
	Provide training opportunities for Services/Employee Groups	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/ Training and Organisational Development	
3. Codes of Conduction				
(a) Awareness of the Employees' Code of Conduct	Circulate information about the Code	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/ Human Resources	
	Highlight sources of relevant information	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/ Human Resources	
(b) The provision of training relating to the Employees' Code of Conduct	Provide training opportunities for Services/ Employee Groups	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/ Training and Organisational Development	
(c) Awareness of the availability of advice on issues regarding the Employees' Code of Conduct	Publicise information about where advice and support can be obtained	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS/ Human Resources	
(d) Awareness of the Members' Code of Conduct	Circulate details about the Members' Code	July - August 2007	DOLD/HOLS	
	Signpost employees to information sources about the Code	July - August 2007	DOLD/HOLS	
(e) The provision of training on issues relating to the Members' Code of Conduct	Provide services with training opportunities relating to the Members' Code	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/ Training and Organisational Development	

(f) Awareness of the availability of advice on issues relating to the Members' Code of Conduct (g) Understanding of how to deal with conflicts of interest	Publicise contact details for obtaining advice on the Members' Code of Conduct Link with the training opportunities referred to at (e) above	June 2007 2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/ Training and Organisational Development
4. Constitutional Fra	mework	I	
(a) An			
 understanding of:- The Constitution Terms of reference for 	Signpost employees to information about the key elements of the Constitutional framework	June 2007	DOLD/HOLS
Cabinet, Executive, Scrutiny Committee	Circulate relevant information about the Framework	August 2007	DOLD/HOLS
 Select Committees Officers Scheme of Delegation 	Provide services with training opportunities relating to the Framework	2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/ HODS/Team Leaders for Democratic Services and Development and Scrutiny/ Training and Organisational Development
(b) Awareness of the new Scrutiny and Select Committee structure	Circulate information about the new structure		HODS/Team Leader Scrutiny
(c) Awareness of the duties and responsibilities of:-Executive	Circulate information about scrutiny duties and responsibilities		HODS/ Team Leader Scrutiny
Scrutiny Committee Select Committees			

5. Member and Officer Roles				
(a) Understanding				
of the roles and responsibilities of:-	Circulate information about Cabinet Members' roles and responsibilities	June 2007	HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services and	
Cabinet MembersHead of Paid Service	Circulate details of Statutory Officers' roles and responsibilities	June 2007	Development DOLD	
Section 151 OfficerMonitoring Officer	Populate website with relevant details of Statutory Officers and their responsibilities	June 2007	DOLD/Member and Civic Services Officer	
	Signpost employees to details of Statutory Officers and their responsibilities	June 2007	DOLD	
(b) Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of non-executive Members	Circulate information about non-executive Members and their roles and responsibilities	July 2007	HODS/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development and Team Leader Scrutiny	
6. Corporate Govern	ance Arrangements	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
(a) Awareness of:-				
Procedures regarding Officers' interests in Contracts, applications etc	Review the procedures	July 2007	DOLD/HOLS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development	
The Member/ Officer Protocol	Reissue and circulate the procedures (revised as appropriate or necessary)	August 2007	Team Leader Democratic Services and Development	
	Publicise the protocol/ signpost employees to its availability	August 2007	DOLD	

 (b) Awareness of:- Statutory Forward Plan Forward Planning Document 	Circulate details of and guidance about the Plans Deliver service/employee group awareness raising sessions	July 2007 2007/08	DOLD/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development DOLD/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
 (c) Familiarity with/understanding of:- Internal Schemes of Officer Delegation Delegated Officer decision-making and recording procedures 	Circulate details of and guidance about the Schemes and the decision-making and recording procedure Deliver service/employee group awareness raising sessions	July 2007 2007/08	DOLD/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development DOLD/HODS/ Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
7. Information			
(a) Information about decision-making on the website	Review the website content regarding decision-making	July 2007	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development/Members and Civic Services Officer
	Populate the website with relevant information	August 2007	Team Leader Democratic Services and Development/ Members and Civic Services Officer

8. Ethical Framework				
(a) Awareness	Circulate information			
and understanding	about:-			
of:-				
	 the framework 			
 the new ethical 				
framework	 the Board's role 			
 the Standards 	 the Committee's 	During 2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/HODS	
Board's role	responsibilities	on an ongoing		
		basis		
 the role and 	Signpost Officers to			
responsibilities of	external sources of	D : 0007/00		
the Standards	information and guidance	During 2007/08	DOLD/HOLS/HODS	
Committee		on an ongoing		
	See also Light Touch	basis		
	Health Check Action			
	Plan			

Ethical Governance Questionnaires

Key Partners

Areas for Improvement	Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible
1. Values			
(a) Awareness of the Council's core purpose and values	Disseminate information about the new core purposes and values.	April - June 2007	Corporate Management Team/ Extended Management Team/Setting the Standard
	Signpost individuals/organisations to details of the new core purpose and values	April - June 2007	Corporate Management Team/ Extended Management Team/Setting the Standard
2. Standards of Cond		T	
(a) Awareness of the Members' Code of Conduct	Circulate details of and guidance about the new Code of Conduct	May – July 2007	DOLD/
	Signpost individuals/organisations to sources of information about the new code.	May – July 2007	DOLD
(b) Awareness of the complaints process	Provide details of the complaints process.	May-July 2007	DOLD/
	Signpost individuals/organisations to relevant sources of information e.g. Standard Board website	May – July 2007	DOLD/
(c) Awareness of the Employees' Code of Conduct	Circulate details of, and guidance about the code.	May – July 2007	DOLD/
Conduct	Signpost individuals/organisations to relevant sources of information e.g. the Council's website	May – July 2007	DOLD/
(d) Awareness of the complaints process	Provide details of the complaints process	May – July 2007	DOLD

3. Decision Making			
 (a) Awareness of the role of the following in decision making:- Full Council Cabinet Select Committees Officers 	Circulate details about the decision making roles of each part of the organisation.	May – July 2007	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development/
(b) Information about decision making	Signpost individuals/organisations to relevant sources of information Ensure that appropriate information is readily accessible on the website	May – July 2007	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development/ DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development/ Members and Civic Services Officer
4. Member Roles			
(a) Understanding of Members' role and responsibilities when appointed to external organisations by:-	Provide access to relevant information about Members' role and responsibilities	May – July 2007	DOLD/Team Leader Democratic Services and Development
 The Council Other organisations/the community 	Provide an initial officer contact for individuals/organisation to raise queries with	May - July 2007	Team Leader Democratic Services and Development