

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Standards Committee

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I FOR DECISION**

#### **WORK PROGRAMME 2007/2008**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To consider the aims and objectives of the Committee for the forthcoming municipal year and based upon these approve a work programme for 2007/2008.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and endorse the attached work programme for the Committee for 2007/2008 (**Appendix A**).

3. **Key Priorities – Taking Pride in Slough and Making a Difference to Communities and our Environment**

**Priority 5 – Maintaining excellent governance within the council to ensure it is efficient, effective and economic in everything it does.**

3.1 By adopting the action now proposed the Council will help ensure that governance of the highest order is maintained which will also contribute to achieving the Council's other key priorities.

4. **Other Implications**

4.1 There are no financial, nor any direct legal (including human rights) implications arising from this report. There may be some staffing implications in terms of increased work load for certain members of staff.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 At the Standards Committee's meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 the Committee, amongst a number of other decisions, resolved that the Committee should be actively involved in setting its aims and objectives for the forthcoming municipal year and based upon these a programme of work be drawn up, agreed and incorporated into the Annual Report.

5.2 At the same Meeting the Committee received the results of the ethical governance survey conducted by the Audit Commission, the Council's External Auditors. In the light of the survey results the External Auditors made a number of recommendations which were as follows:

1. Further training should be offered to all Members on the provisions of the Code of Conduct, in particular emphasising and exploring how the Council's ethical culture needs to be developed.
  2. The Standards Committee should consider how it might use internal and external auditors to promote higher Ethical Standards across the Council.
  3. The Standards Committee should promote its work more widely across the Council.
  4. The Council should consider whether Member training could be made compulsory.
  5. The Council should review training for Officers to include awareness of the Officer Code of Conduct and carry out a risk assessment of training required for legislation.
  6. The Council should ensure that all Members are fully aware of the content of the Code of Conduct and the impact it has on their duties.
- 5.3 In response to the Auditors' Report several initial actions were approved and these together with the other actions agreed by the Committee at the Meeting have been incorporated into a draft work programme for 2007/2008 which is attached as **Appendix A** .

## **6. Background Papers**

Reports submitted to and Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.