



ISLINGTON

Corporate Resources
Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Report of : Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	30 March 2006	6	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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Subject: ETHICAL GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN

1. Synopsis

This report sets out the Council's response to the five recommendations made in the draft Ethical Governance Survey report carried out by the Audit Commission at the request of the Council.

2. Recommendation

To agree the Action Plan set out in Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee at their meeting on 11th January 2006 received the draft Ethical Governance Survey report carried out by the Audit Commission. The Commission found that the council had strong ethical governance arrangements in place and that generally behaviour among members was good.
- 3.2 However, there was still work to do to disseminate more widely the existence of the Code of Conduct amongst officers and to develop the Council's approach to the diversity agenda. The role of the Standards Committee needed to be clarified with both members and officers. Better guidance and more appropriate training were needed on conduct issues. Finally the Council's whistle-blowing arrangements need to be better known and more clearly understood.
- 3.3 Set out in Appendix A are the five recommendations taken from the report together with allocated responsibility and timescales for achieving them.

3.4 All these recommendations will be picked up as part of the training and development plan being put in place for the induction of Councillors following the borough elections in May 2006.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

The cost of implementing these recommendations can be contained within existing budgets.

4.2 Legal

4.3 Equalities

4.3.1 High ethical standards are the cornerstone of good governance. They are an integral part of good corporate governance arrangements and can lead to increased confidence in local democracy.

4.3.2 Setting high ethical standards is an important building block for Council's in developing their community leadership role and improving services to the community.

Background papers:

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

Director of Corporate Resources

Date

Received by

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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ACTION PLAN

Page No.	Recommendation	Priority	Responsibility	Implemented by
7	<i>Code of Conduct</i> R1: Disseminate more widely information on the existence of the Code of Conduct and how to report a potential breach of the Code.	2	Head of Democratic Services	August 2006
8	<i>Diversity and meeting the needs of the community</i> R2: Review the Council's approach to the management of and training in diversity to ensure that the Council can demonstrate publicly to staff and other stakeholders its commitment to the issue.	2	Head of Equalities Head of HR	July 2006
8	<i>The Standards Committee</i> R3: Clarify the role of the Standards Committee in the Council with Members and officers.	2	Head of Democratic Services	May 2006
8	<i>Training and Information</i> R4: Review the guidance and training given to Members on conduct issues, on diversity and on other legislation. Consult with Members and officers how it could be developed further to meet needs and the needs of the Council.	2	Director of Corporate Services	May 2006
9	<i>Challenge, complaints and whistle-blowing</i> R5: Review the dissemination of Information about the Council's whistle-blowing policy. Disseminate guidance on the Council's arrangements to Members and officers to ensure that they are clearer about Council expectations.	2	Head of HR	May 2006

Priority Key:

1=Low

2=Med

3=High