

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

2 October 2014

<p>Committee on Standards in Public Life: Ethics in Practice: Promoting Ethical Conduct in Public Life</p>

Report No ADGMO/24/14/MK/SS of the Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To advise Committee of a recent report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life around ethical standards for providers of public services.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 When Lord Nolan published the First Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in 1995 he not only set out the Seven Principles of Public Life but also three ‘common threads’ for ensuring that those Principles were properly understood and followed – Codes of Conduct, Independent Scrutiny, and Guidance and Education. Lord Nolan was clear that an essential part of the necessary guidance and education on ethical standards was induction training.
- 1.2 This report revisits the subject of ethics in induction. The Committee notes good practice, highlights areas where standards are at risk, and identifies where improvements could be made to embed ethical standards more effectively. The Committee draws on a survey of local authorities’ approaches to induction and training and commissioned a paper from Professor Mark Philp on the subject of ethics in practice for politicians – Public Ethics and Political Judgment.
- 1.3 From the evidence assessed by the Committee, induction is an effective means of heightening that awareness and building a real understanding of what the Seven Principles of Public Life and codes of conduct mean in practice. Leadership is crucial to the effectiveness of induction processes.
- 1.4 It is the Committee’s conclusion that induction is essential to ensure that public office holders are aware of the standards expected of them and therefore that ethical standards need to be included in the induction arrangements for all those public life.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 To enable the Committee to consider the report.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 N/A

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 N/A

5 Implications

N/A

6 Recommendations

6.1 Committee notes the report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life around ethical conduct in public life.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	N/A
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	N/A

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
A	Ethics in Practice: Promoting Ethical Conduct in Public Life
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
M Kane	7753