



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

Standards Committee

16th September 2009

Ethical Governance Report – Audit Commission

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the Audit Commission's report on Leicester City Council's approach to ethical governance (attached).

2. Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider how they wish to take forward the recommendations contained in the Audit Commission report.

3. Report

3.1 In July the Audit Commission produced a report on ethical governance arrangements in Leicester City Council. This was as a result of an audit carried out in 2007 and a workshop held in March 2009. The report highlights a number of improvements which have been led through the work of the Standards Committee.

3.2 The report also identified recommendations for further improvements as set out below, for implementation by March 2010:-

- a) The Council should build on its ethical governance training work by:
 - tailoring ethical governance training to councillor's needs identified through the development review process;
 - offering refresher training before elections and to update councillors about case law;
 - developing an ethical governance training package for managers and staff to include:
 - general awareness of ethics including the councillor perspective; and
 - officer code of conduct issues including declaration of gifts, hospitality and interests.
- b) The Council's Standard's Committee to develop an externally focused action plan so that:

- it is better understood by the Public and can publicise the Council's record on ethics; and
- it can clarify partnership conduct and governance issues for those engaged in joint working.

4. Legal and Financial Implications

None.

5. Report Author

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