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## Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### Standards Committee

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Subject: Ethical Audit 2006: Action Plan

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Ethical Audit Action Plan for the improvement of ethical governance in Leeds City Council created based on the results of the 2006 Ethical Audit.
2. This report also seeks the Committee's approval of the Ethical Audit Action Plan which is shown at Appendix 1
3. Members are asked to consider the contents of this report and approve the Ethical Audit Action Plan at Appendix 1

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the Committee of the Ethical Audit Action Plan created based on the results of the 2006 Ethical Audit
- 1.2 The reports also seeks the approval of the Members of the Committee of the Ethical Audit Action Plan in relation to the improvement of ethical governance in Leeds City Council which is shown at Appendix 1

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 At the Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 Members of the Standards Committee received a report informing them of the methodology adopted to create an action plan based on the results of the 2006 Ethical Audit, and also seeking the comments of the Members of the Committee to the developing proposed action plan which was attached to the report
- 2.2 Members noted that report and resolved to contact officers with any comments on the proposed plan. No comments have been received by officers.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 Ethical Audit Action Plan: The Ethical Audit Action Plan has been created and has been circulated to relevant officers for consultation and precise improvement measures that are measurable have been established as have the timescales within which they can be achieved. This has resulted in the "SMART" Ethical Audit Action Plan that is attached at Appendix . The work contained in the Ethical Audit Action Plan which is within the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee, will be added to the Committee's work programme for the year.
- 3.2 It is intended to report back progress against the plan to Standards Committee on half yearly basis.
- 3.3 Additional work arising: Further exploration of ethical agenda in relation to officers of grades lower than those surveyed in the 2006 survey will be necessary in due course. In addition there is a second action plan being developed in relation to Parish Council training and related matters

## **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

- 4.1 The Council plan for the 2006/07 Municipal year states:-

"The council has an ethical framework which fosters a culture of behaviour based on shared values, ethical principals and good conduct. The council does this by establishing and keeping under review separate codes of conduct for councillors and for employees and additional protocols which govern the relationship between them. The council has also appointed a Standards Committee with responsibilities for promoting and monitoring the framework. In 2006/07 the council will, building on previous work done by the Audit Commission, undertake an in depth "ethical audit" so as to enable the council to benchmark itself against other councils and help focus further development of the ethical framework".

The completion of the ethical audit and development of the action plan for the improvement of ethical governance is therefore in accordance with the Council Plan.

## **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implication in this report

5.2 The actions identified can be met from existing resources.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The Ethical Audit Action Plan drawn up following the survey in 2006 is now before members.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members of the Committee are asked to:-

- approve the Ethical Audit Action Plan at Appendix 1, and

- agree that the work contained in the Ethical Audit Action Plan will be added to the Committee's work programme for the year