



## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### Standards Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010

Subject: Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2010: Standards and Ethics

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

☐

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

☐

Community Cohesion

☐

Narrowing the Gap

☐

## 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify Members of the Standards Committee that Leeds City Council has been successful in its entry for this year's LGC Awards 2010 'Standards and Ethics' category.

## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Leeds was named as the winner at the LGC Awards ceremony in London on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. More information about the LGC Awards can be found on the website, [www.lgcawards.com](http://www.lgcawards.com).
- 2.2 The other shortlisted authorities were Waveney District Council, Kent County Council, the London Borough of Bromley, South Cambridgeshire District Council and West Somerset District Council. Waveney District Council was also highly commended by the judges, for its efforts in promoting high ethical standards. The authority's poster competition and 'Young Filmmaker Competition' were among the innovative approaches it took to communicating standards.
- 2.3 Examples of notable practice and profiles of all six authorities can be found on Standards for England's website, [www.standardsforengland.gov.uk](http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk).

## 3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Leeds City Council has been named as one of the most ethical authorities in the country, winning in the Standards and Ethics category at the LGC Awards 2010. Members will recall that Leeds City Council was shortlisted in the same category in 2009.

- 3.2 In their press release, entitled “Standards are a winner for Leeds”, Standards for England (SfE) stated that it was impressed by Leeds’ approach to ethical governance within the authority, and highlighted the following areas of good practice:
- a series of measures designed to drive up and raise awareness of ethical standards;
  - working on the Standards Committee’s assessment and investigation procedures; and
  - engaging leadership by arranging for the Standards Committee Chair, the Monitoring Officer and the leaders of all five political parties to meet to discuss issues every quarter.
- 3.3 Dr Robert Chilton, Chair of Standards for England, said: “We were very impressed with Leeds City Council’s commitment to high ethical standards. Their success in the Standards and Ethics category shows the innovation and hard work put into areas such as communicating standards and engaging leadership. The judges were very pleased to be able to recognise and celebrate the notable practice of all six shortlisted authorities in this year’s award, and we were encouraged by their clear commitment to promoting and maintaining high standards of member conduct.”
- 3.4 Councillor Richard Brett, joint leader of Leeds City Council said: “The LGC Awards celebrate the very best in local government and it is a great achievement for us to be included on the winners list. We are very pleased that standards and ethics at the council have been singled out as some of the best in local government for this year, and we will continue to work on this and all other areas.”

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

- 4.1 Winning the Standards and Ethics category at the LGC Awards demonstrates that local politicians, officers and the Standards Committee of Leeds City Council are working together to champion ethical standards in the authority, and that this work has made a positive difference to perceptions of local democracy and public trust in the area.

#### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications to this report.
- 5.2 There were resource implications involved in preparing the entry and presentation for this award in terms of officer time, and there were cost implications to travelling to London for the presentation and attendance at the award ceremony itself. However, these costs were met from within existing budgets.

#### **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 Leeds City Council has been named as one of the most ethical authorities in the country, winning in the Standards and Ethics category at the LGC Awards 2010. Leeds was named as the winner at the LGC Awards ceremony in London on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Members of the Standards Committee are asked to note the information in this report.

## Background Documents

LGC Awards website: [www.lgcawards.com](http://www.lgcawards.com)

Standards for England press release "Standards are a winner for Leeds":

<http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/News/PressOffice/Pressreleases/title,26743,en.asp>

Leeds City Council's profile on Standards for England website:

<http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/Resources/Notablepractice/Standardsandethicsaward/LeedsCityCouncil/#d.en.26731>

Leeds City Council press release "Leeds raises the standard and goes from good to great":

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/page.aspx?pageidentifier=dca34310-fdfb-42e9-beed-ee8709fbd850&pressReleaseId=3815>