

**Report To:** Standards Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Lead Member Officer:** Monitoring Officer, Gary Williams, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

**Report Author:** Lisa Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Title:** Forward Work Programme and Review.

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### **1. What is the report about?**

Members of Standards Committee have previously discussed setting out a planned forward work programme for the Committee. This report is intended to encourage members, in advance of the meeting, to consider the areas of work or oversight the Committee should focus its priorities upon for 2014/2015 municipal year.

### **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The majority of other Committees in the Council develop a Forward Work Programme, and Members may agree that rather than having a reactive approach to code of conducts complaints, an alternative strategy should be discussed and considered. Proactive work is carried out by Members already, such as attending in person at County, City, Town and Community Council meetings and members may want to plan in more focused way on theirs and the Monitoring Officers approach to raising standards across the County.

### **3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Standards Committee debate, and consider, the adoption of a Forward Work Programme.

### **4. Report details**

As this is an area which Members are specifically requested to consider and shape, the report details here are therefore brief. The key element of this report is that both the Monitoring Officer and his Deputy agree that the direction of the Committee's work should be a 'two way' process, with ideas and suggestions for improving standards proactively to emanate from members to the Monitoring Officer and vice versa. The areas of good practice discussed at the North Wales Standards Forum may also serve useful in shaping the forward programme.

In order for this Committee to consider a future work programme, attached at Appendix 1 is a schedule of reports and actions taken by the Committee over the past two years. Appendix 2 sets out some indicative areas of work that the Committee may wish to adopt, although the Monitoring Officer will be guided by

the knowledge and experience of what is happening in the communities by Members.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

This approach is consistent with one of the Councils priorities of being closer to its community.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There are no implications for other services as a result of this report.

**7. What consultations have been carried out?**

No consultations, statutory or non-statutory are considered to be required as a result of this report.

**8. Chief Finance Officer Statement.**

There are no additional costs directly associated with the appointments.

**9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

There are no identified risks.

**10. Power to make the decision**

s.111 Local Government Act 1972