



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 24 January 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Council Solicitor
Anthony Winship

SUBJECT: **Checklist for Implementation of Locally
Managed Ethical Framework**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a checklist for the Implementation of Locally Managed Ethical Framework

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Committee are asked to note the report and the attached checklist for the Implementation of Locally Managed Ethical Framework

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduces the framework for significant changes to the process of handling standards allegations against members of local authorities. These changes include the devolution of the handling of such allegations from the Standards Board for England to individual local authorities' Standards Committees. The Department for Communities and Local Government is now consulting on a number of issues relating to the implementation of these changes, seeking views on specific proposals, as set out below, by 15th February 2008.

The Department's intention is to implement the changes from 1st April 2008. However, whilst the issues which are the subject of this consultation are important, there remain a substantial number of other matters and much detail which will need to be resolved by the final Regulations and Guidance, and it is equally important that sufficient time is allowed for proper consultation on the draft statutory instruments and draft guidance. Given that a statutory instrument has to be laid before Parliament for at least 6 weeks before it takes effect,

the proposed implementation date of 1st April 2008 leaves only one week for any issues raised in response to this consultation to be taken into account in the drafting of the statutory instruments, let alone consultation on the draft regulations and draft guidance.

4.0 REPORT

Members will be aware that Standards Board Bulletin 36 published on 10 December 2007 includes a Checklist for Implementation of Locally Managed Ethical Framework. This checklist has been incorporated into a table and is attached as Annex 1. Given the challenging timescale to implement the new Locally Managed Ethical Framework it is considered important for the Standards Committee to consider this checklist.

5.0 COUNCIL POLICY

Consideration of the a Checklist for Implementation of Locally Managed Ethical Framework Bulletin contributes positively to the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements by ensuring that Members are appraised of the steps needed to implement the new Locally Managed Ethical Framework by 1 April 2008 if that is the deadline.

Background Papers:

Standards Board Bulletin 36 published on 10 December 2007.

OFFICER CONTACT:

Please contact Anthony Winship, Council Solicitor, if you require any further information on the contents of this Report. The Officer can be contacted at Ryedale House, Telephone 01653 600666 ext.267 or e-mail: anthony.winship@ryedale.gov.uk