

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2007**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>C S Newlands Ext. 2715</b>

**Publicity of Members' Annual Reports**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To report to members of the Committee on the reports submitted to Annual Council by Members detailing their activities for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1. The Committee is asked to DECIDE:**

**That the Chairman write to the Members who omitted to submit a Member Activity report to request details of the work they had done during the municipal year 2006/07.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Council, in implementing the Members' Allowance Scheme received guidance from an Independent Remuneration Panel. One issue that the Panel explored extensively was the question of whether Members needed to be more accountable in view of the Payment to all Members of enhanced allowances.
- 3.2. In 2002, the Independent Remuneration Panel recommended in its report to Council, that there should be a substantial increase in the amount of allowances paid to Members. The Panel, as a result of its recommendation, also stated that Members had an increased duty to make transparent to the general public what they were doing for their allowances.
- 3.3. The Independent Remuneration Panel also recommended that Members should be requested to fill in a pro forma to allow them to give an account of their activities beyond their attendance at formal meetings of the Council and its outside bodies.
- 3.4. It also recommended that the Council publish Members' attendance figures at more regular intervals. This has been accomplished in agendas and now appears on the Council's website.

- 3.5. At its meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Ethics and Standards Committee considered a report that outlined the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and recommended to Council that Members should produce an annual report that detailed their activities during the municipal year.
- 3.6. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 a recommendation from the Ethics and Standards Committee was agreed by Council that member activity reports for all councillors be included in the agenda of Annual meetings of the Council.
- 3.7. On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the Principal Committee Officer wrote to all Members reminding them of the requirement of Council to produce activity reports.
- 3.6. When the Annual Council agenda was printed seven members had not produced the required report.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1. Thirty five members have submitted an annual activity report in accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel to Council. Seven members failed to produce a report and therefore the Committee is asked to determine what further action should be taken.

### Consultees:

Chairman/Vice Chairman of Ethics and Standards Committee

### Background papers:

Reports of the Independent Remuneration Committee 2002/2004  
Report to Ethics and Standards Committee 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006 - Publicity of Member Activity Reports  
Recommendation to Council 19 April 2006 from Ethics and Standards Committee - Publicity of Member Activity Reports