

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: The Monitoring Officer

REPORT NUMBER **J115**

TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 16 October 2009

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To obtain input from the Committee on the examples to be provided to the Council's external auditors on our use of resources assessment for 2009/10 that concerns the ethical framework and culture within the Council.
- 1.2 Further, to generate ideas to continue to promote and develop high standards of ethical behaviour within the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That the Committee identifies examples of where its work has helped promote and demonstrate the principles and values of good governance within the Council in the areas identified in the Table at paragraph 5.3.
- 2.2 That the Committee nominate a representative to work with the Monitoring Officer to develop further ideas for the promotion and delivery of high standards of behaviour within the Council that will be reported to future meetings of the Committee.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk No. 4 (Governance). Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness or Impact	Mitigation Measures
Officers do not engage with members of the Committee responsible for ethical governance in providing examples for the Council's ethical governance audit	Low	Marginal	Report to members to secure feedback

5. **KEY INFORMATION**

- 5.1 As part of its 'Use of Resources Assessment' the Council is audited on its ethical framework and culture against criteria established by the Audit Commission. The table below lists the actions identified as key line of enquiries that we need to demonstrate that the Council are fulfilling. Members are invited to consider each of these actions and provide examples of how the requirements have been fulfilled.
- 5.2 In addition, members may have suggestions for maintaining the high levels of ethical behaviour achieved and for continued improvement. To assist in this function it is suggested that the Committee consider nominating a representative to work with the Monitoring Officer to develop ideas that can then be reported to future meetings of the Committee.
- 5.3 List of actions that require addressing :

1	Provide examples that demonstrate that the leadership sets the tone by creating a climate of openness, support and respect, promotes a strong ethical culture and upholds the values of good governance.
2	Provide examples that demonstrate how the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive are recognised as good role models and known to proactively promote the ethical agenda, both inside and outside the council.
3	Provide examples that demonstrate how the Standards Committee advises the leadership on how it can impact positively on staff and public confidence and trust in the organisation.
4	Provide examples that demonstrate how the council monitors compliance with its codes and procedures, and reports the findings and any action taken, to the whole council, these include; the Code of Conduct; registers of interest, gifts and hospitality; code of practice for IT resources; Standing Orders and Financial Regulations; and Procurement Procedures
5	Provide examples that demonstrate how the council communicates progress made in developing the ethical environment to stakeholders and to local people and communities.
6	Provide examples that demonstrate that the council embeds a strong ethical culture.
7	Provide examples to demonstrate that Members and staff have high levels of awareness of, and confidence in, the whistle-blowing arrangements.
8	Provide examples that demonstrate that complaints information is used to inform service improvement/adjustment.

6. **APPENDICES**

None.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None.

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