



**AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:**

**1 NOVEMBER 2007**

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**Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor**

**Contact for further information: Mrs Jacky Denning (Extn 5384)**

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**SUBJECT: VISITS TO DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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District wide interest

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To receive an update on visits being undertaken by Members of the Standards Committee to District and Parish Council meetings.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the current position in relation to visits to District and Parish Council meetings as set out in paragraph 4 of the report, be noted and Members give informal feedback in their visits to date.

2.2 That names be provided for the following visits on:

- 12 November to Bickerstaffe Parish Council with John Cailes
- 14 November to Halsall Parish Council with Cllr Una Atherley

2.3 That members of the committee notify the Assistant Member Services Manager of any future visits they are able to attend as soon as possible.

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**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Standards Committee, at its meeting held on 1 November 2006, approved a Work Programme for the year with a view to being proactive in their work and agreed to undertake a series of visits to District and Parish Council meetings.

3.2 It was agreed that Members of the Committee would attend up to four meetings as observers, preferably in pairs, with the intent that this would

increase their understanding of the way Councils are operating in West Lancashire and of conduct at meetings and also raise the profile of the Standards Committee. Member would then informally feedback into a general discussion on their visits on an annual basis.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 A schedule of meetings has been drawn up, as set out in the Appendix to the report, although co-ordinating visits has been challenging.
- 4.2 As set out in the schedule, visits to the following Parishes still need to be arranged: Aughton, Hesketh with Beconsall, Lathom, Lathom South, Newburgh, Parbold, Rufford, Scarisbrick, Simonswood, Tarleton and Up Holland.
- 4.3 As the Committee have agreed that visits should be undertaken in pairs names are urgently required for meetings being held on:
- 12 November to Bickerstaffe Parish Council with John Cailles
  - 14 November to Halsall Parish Council with Cllr Una Atherley
- 4.4 Dates of meetings are still awaited from Bispham and Wrightington Parish Councils.

#### **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability/community strategy implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The co-ordination of visits will be resourced from existing budgets.

#### **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 A proactive Standards Committee will ensure high ethical standards are promoted within the Council.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

#### **Appendices**

Schedule of visits to meetings of district and parish council meetings, by Standards Committee Members.