

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 21st APRIL 2009

UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

To update Standards Committee with regard to work undertaken concerning the arrangements for Code of Conduct training during the municipal year 2009 – 10.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the contents of the report are noted

3. SUMMARY

Officers have undertaken initial work regarding Code of Conduct training for 2009 – 10. This followed a review of the training following the feedback from the Code of Conduct training that took place in November 2008.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee – 24th January 2005,
Standards & Audit Committee – 4th April 2006, 12th September 2006,
11th September 2007 (ST-24), 29th January 2008 (ST-50),
Standards Committee – 18th December 2008 (ST-23), 2nd February 2008
(ST – 30).

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

On the 2nd February 2009 the Standards Committee approved a review of the Code of Conduct training and the suggestions put forward in principle for changes to the format of the Code of Conduct training for the municipal year 2009 – 10. Since then officers have been undertaking work to make preparations for training in accordance with the plans set out. In particular the work is focussed on the following:-

1. Distributing a letter from the Chair of the Standards Committee inviting comments from Councillors at both

Borough and Parish level with regard to the Code of Conduct topics which they would like to see covered in the forthcoming training.

2. An investigation into a number of different venues in the Borough to provide the Code of Conduct training later on this year.
3. A review of the training format to promote a more interactive style and also looking at a change in the provision of trainers to host the seminars.

This work is ongoing and has not been concluded yet. The Committee will be updated further when there is more information to report.

5.2 Equality and Diversity

Every effort will be made to ensure that the Code of Conduct training is made accessible to all those who wish to attend.

5.3 Environmental Impact

No implications.

5.4 Legal Comment

Code of Conduct training is not compulsory. However it is good practice for all elected members to attend some form of Code of Conduct training on a regular basis.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

Ensuring that elected members are trained on the provisions of the Code of Conduct assists them in undertaking their role as Councillors and accordingly helps in meeting Corporate Priority 7 of an efficient, effective and customer-focused Council.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

The risks associated with providing the Code of Conduct training in this format as set out have been assessed. Every effort will be made to ensure that the risks involved are managed effectively and any opportunities arising from providing the training are maximised.

5.7 Financial Implications

It is anticipated that the training will be funded from within existing budgets. Final costings will be available once the review of the format and changes to the training programme are decided.

6. **WARD IMPLICATIONS**

District wide implications.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

***Report prepared by Matthew Cumberbatch, Group Solicitor
Tel: 01952 383255***