

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2010

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING 2009/2010

REPORT OF HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Members with regard to the recent Code of Conduct training seminars and seek instructions on further Code of Conduct training to be arranged.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the committee provide instructions to the Monitoring Officer on future Code of Conduct training.

3. SUMMARY

Three Code of Conduct training sessions took place during February and March 2010. Feedback from the training shows that it was well received and an improvement from the training provided last year. The views of the Committee are sought with regard to future training.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee – 24 January 2005
Standards & Audit Committee – 4 April 2006, 21 April 2006, 12 September 2006, 11 September 2007 (ST-24), 29 January 2008 (ST-50),
Standards Committee - 18 December 2008 (ST-23),
Standards Committee - 11 February 2009

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Code of Conduct training for borough councillors and councillors from the Town & Parish Councils took place on the 22 February and 2 March respectively. There were three training sessions following a new format previously agreed by this Committee. Training was in a workshop style which included case studies and involved more feedback from the participants than in previous years. The training also took place in

different locations in order to encourage more parish and town councillors to attend.

Attendance was as follows:-

Total attendance – 84

Borough Councillors – 31

Parish Councillors – 45

Others (Officers and Fire Authority members and officers) – 8

Attendance at Training Session on 22 February (afternoon) at Holiday Inn, Telford – 36

Attendance at Training on 22 February (evening) at Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington – 33

Attendance at Training Session on 2 March (evening) at Jubilee House, Madeley – 15

Overall the feedback from the training sessions was as follows:-

AFTERNOON SESSION

RATING	1	2	3	4	5
JOINING INSTRUCTIONS	5	1	7	27	21
CONTENT OF TRAINING	1	0	5	28	27
QUALITY OF PRESENTATION / WORKSHOPS	0	0	8	32	21
SUPPORTING MATERIAL / HANDOUTS	0	1	7	32	21
VENUE	1	5	7	18	30
OVERALL, HOW USEFUL WAS THE TRAINING	1	1	6	27	26

1 = Poor, 2 = Unsatisfactory, 3 = Satisfactory, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent

In addition to the ratings there were also comments added to some of the feedback forms which were generally favourable.

The Committee is asked to consider the details concerning the recent training (set out above) and provide instructions for the Monitoring Officer concerning future code of conduct training.

5.2 Equal Opportunities

The Monitoring Officer will ensure that Code of Conduct training complies with all equality and diversity legislation and is available to all eligible Councillors.

5.3 Environmental Impact

No implications identified

5.4 Legal Comments

Code of Conduct training is not compulsory but is strongly advised. It is also preferable to have Code of Conduct training undertaken on a regular basis in order that members can be made aware of recent cases which give more guidance on the interpretation of the Members Code of Conduct.

5.5 Financial Implications

The cost of delivering the Code of Conduct training was £2912.26 including VAT which was met from existing training budgets.

5.6 Links with Corporate Priorities

Ensuring that elected members are kept up to date with the terms of the Code of Conduct assist the Council in meeting its objective with being efficient and effective and customer focused Council.

5.7 Opportunities and Risks

The opportunities and risks associated with providing regular Code of Conduct training have been identified and assessed. Arrangements are being put in place to manage the potential opportunities made available by providing regular Code of Conduct training and managing the risks that arise particularly from non-attendance at the training by elected members.

5.8 Ward Implications

District Wide Implications

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

Report prepared by Matthew Cumberbatch, Legal Services Manager Tel: 01952 383255 and Emma Price, Senior Member Services Officer telephone number 01952 380110