

SUBJECT:	Review of Member Training in 2017
REPORT OF:	Monitoring Officer
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WARD/S AFFECTED	None

1. Purpose of Report

This report considers what standards training has been held for members in 2017 and whether it would be appropriate to organise further training sessions/workshops in 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the position on training in 2017 and agree any areas/topics for refresher training/workshops on standards issues in the coming year.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members when conducting council business.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members. The Audit and Standards Committee is tasked with ensuring this duty is met. When the Council adopted the current Code of Conduct in 2012 it also required all elected members to receive training on the obligations contained in the code. In addition members of the Planning Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee are required to have specialist training in the Council's planning and licensing functions/procedures as a pre-requisite of sitting on these regulatory committees. Members of other committees including Overview and Scrutiny and Audit also receive briefings on the committees' roles and responsibilities at the beginning of the Council term.
- 3.2 The Committee last considered the position on member training at their meeting in March 2017 and noted that a full induction and training had been provided for all new and continuing members after the District Council elections in May 2015. A further refresher session on declarations of interest and predetermination was held for members in November 2015. The Committee agreed that as members approached the halfway point in the Council term further refresher training be arranged with outside speakers as necessary on specialist areas such as Planning and Licensing particularly targeted Committee members but to which all members are invited. Training for members dealing with homelessness appeals on the

Appeals and Complaints Committee and local government finance/budgets at Resources Overview Committee were also considered.

- 3.4 Refresher training for members was provided on planning matters in July by the in-house officer team. In August an external speaker provided training on licensing issues. The 2 newly elected district councillors received their mandatory training session on the Code of Conduct in May and November respectively. Planning training was also given to a newly appointed member of the Planning Committee. More detailed training on homelessness legislation for members of Appeals and Complaints Committee is being considered and also a joint update on compliance with the Prudential Code (covering Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy).
- 3.5 The Committee is invited to suggest any standards or other training issues where they consider further member awareness or training would be beneficial.

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. Options

The Committee has the option of proposing alternative topics for member training/briefing or deferring further training until a future date.

6. Corporate Implications

Financial - None
Legal – As set out in the report
Risks issues – None
Equalities - None

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Whilst there is no direct link to the Council's main objectives, ensuring that members are aware of, and understand, their obligations under the code of conduct and standards framework is an important assurance for the good governance of the Council.

8. Next Steps

Suitable dates for any further training sessions will be canvassed with relevant Chairmen and senior members.

Background Papers:	None except those referred to in the report
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