

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 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 receive specialist training on 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 A full programme of induction and training was 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. In 2017 the 2 newly elected district councillors received their mandatory training session on the Code of Conduct. In August an external speaker provided training on licensing issues for members of the Licensing Committee and members attended further in-house training sessions in January this year. Planning training was also given to a newly appointed member of the Planning Committee.
- 3.5 Looking at future training in 2018, a joint update on compliance with the Prudential Code (covering Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy) is being considered. The Committee is also invited to suggest any standards or

other training issues where they consider a refresher or further member awareness would be beneficial.

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. Options

The Committee has the option of proposing topics for member training/briefing for 2018.

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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