

## **STANDARDS TRAINING FOR MEMBERS**

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Wards affected: All

### **PROPOSED DECISION**

No decision is required; the Committee is asked to note this report and consider any future training requirements.

#### **Corporate Implications**

1. Within its terms of reference, the Standards Committee has a general remit to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Members and co-opted Members of Wycombe District Council, which includes assisting Members and co-opted Members of the District Council to observe the Council's Code of Conduct, and advising, training or arrange the training of Members and Co-opted Members of the District Council on matters relating to the authority's Code of Conduct.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. This report allows members to consider recent and future training on Standards matters.

#### **Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications**

3. Robust training arrangements for standards matters helps support good governance.

#### **Background and Issues**

4. As noted above, the Standards Committee's functions include promoting high standards of conduct and supporting or arranging training as part of this role.
5. At the most recent Standards Committee on 11 March 2014, the District Solicitor, David Ruddock, gave a detailed presentation to the Committee, outlining the standards regime under the Localism Act. The presentation contained details of the changes to the law in 2012, the current Code, its requirements as to conduct, Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, complaints arrangements, sanctions, the role of the Independent Person, and Predetermination. This training built upon earlier training offered to the Committee and members generally.
6. The training on 11 March was attended by 22 out of a total of 60 members of the Council. Both of the Independent Persons and all three of the Parish Council observers on the Committee also attended. Parish Council attendance is not formally recorded, but all of the Parish Clerks and Parish Council Chairmen

were invited, and representatives from seven parish councils indicated they would be in attendance. After the meeting a link both to the minutes and a copy of the presentation slides was sent to all Town and Parish Councils, both those who did not attend, and those who did; the slides were also placed onto the Council's website with the papers for the meeting and are publicly accessible.

7. Whilst Standards training has been widely offered and presented recently, the Committee is invited to discuss any future training requirements.

### **Next Steps**

8. To be determined after consideration of the report.

### **Background Papers**

None.