

Appendices: 0



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

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| Report Title | Standards Training – Update. |
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

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| Committee Meeting Date: | 10 th December 2012 |
| Policy Document: | No |
| Directorate: | Borough Secretary |

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update Members of the Standards Committee following training sessions that took place on 19th November 2012 on the new standards arrangements currently in place following changes brought about by the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 To ascertain from Members of the Standards Committee whether as a Committee they have any additional specific training needs in relation to the new standards arrangements.

2. Recommendations

The Standards Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the update on standards training contained in paragraph 3.2 of this Report.
- 2.2 Advise the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer of any additional specific training requirements that the Committee has in relation to the new standards arrangements.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Localism Act 2011 has made significant changes to the standards regime in local government. On 21st June 2012 the Council adopted a new Code of

Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct and of Codes of Conduct adopted by Parish Councils. The Code of Conduct and the Arrangements came into effect on 1st July 2012.

3.2 Training Sessions on 19th November 2012

3.2.1 On 19th November 2012, two identical training sessions were held by the Council, one in the afternoon and one in the evening on the new standards arrangements. All Northampton Borough Councillors and all Parish Councillors were invited to attend one of these sessions which were delivered by an external trainer.

3.2.2 As the content of Codes of Conduct and Arrangements for dealing with breaches of Codes are decided upon locally (within the requirements of the Localism Act 2011), the training sessions were tailored to cover the new Code and Arrangements adopted by the Council. In particular, the training sessions covered the following topics:

- The Code of Conduct
- Registration and disclosure of interests:
 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - Personal Interests
 - Sensitive Interests
 - Criminal offences
- Arrangements for dealing with allegations of breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct and of Codes of Conduct adopted by Parish Councils, (the complaints process)
- Sanctions
- Dispensations
- Role of the Independent Person

3.2.3 The training sessions gave attendees the opportunity to discuss topics in smaller groups and raise questions.

3.2.4 Attendance Details are as follows:

NBC Councillors: 14
Parish Council representatives: 14
Officers: 3

3.3 Additional Training for Members of the Committee

3.3.1 Members are asked to advise the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer whether following the general training on the 19th November 2011, they consider that they require any specific training in their capacity as Members of the Standards Committee.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 N/A

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 Any additional training requested by Members of the Committee will be resourced through existing budgets.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Legal implications are contained in the body of the Report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 Not applicable.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 Not applicable.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

6. Report Author

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