



STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Training for Councillors – Members’ Code of Conduct and Register of Interests
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	19 December 2016
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Standards Committee on the recent training that took place for Councillors on the Members’ Code of Conduct and Register of Interests.

2. Recommendations

- 2.2 To note the content of the report.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background and Issues

- 3.1.1 On Thursday 30 November 2016 a training session for Councillors was held on the Members’ Code of Conduct and Register of Interests. A number of Councillors and Officers attended the training session.

3.1.2 Content of the training session

The training session covered various issues including:

- Localism Act 2011
 - Changes to the system regulating Councillor Conduct
- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Personal Interests
- Registration and Disclosure of Interests

- When to disclose
- What a Councillor must do when they have an interest
- Role of the Monitoring Officer
- Consequences of non-compliance
- Sensitive Interests
- A case study was provided

3.1.3 Open Day

In addition to the training, an “open day” was set aside on Friday, 9 December 2016, between 9am and 5:30pm. The purpose of the open day was to provide a facility for Councillors to drop in to the Council Offices to complete or update a Register of Interests form should they have needed to, and obtain the answer to any queries they may have had regarding declarations of interest.

3.1.4 Further Ethical and Governance Training for Councillors

At the meeting of the Standards Committee on 14th September 2015, it was agreed that a Working Group, comprising three Members be established. The Working Group was established to:

- consider the training requirements of all Members of the Council in relation to ethical and governance matters within the remit of the Standards Committee; and
- to devise a Training Strategy, which also includes consideration of the extent to which such training should be extended to Parish Councils within the Borough.

3.1.5 Membership of the Working Group consists of Councillors Oldham, Marriott and Parekh.

3.1.6 It is suggested that the Standards Committee considers the remit of this Working Group at agenda item 7 – Work Plan for the Standards Committee.

3.2 **Choices**

3.2.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This report does not have any direct policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 This report does not have any direct resource implications.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The legal framework for registering and declaring interests is identified in the body of the report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Councillor Training Presentation – Members’ Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests – 30 November 2016

**Tracy Tiff
Scrutiny Officer**