
Standards Committee

MONDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2002 at Time Not Specified HRS - .

MEMBERS: Diakides, Khan, Lister, Mallett, Reid, Whyte, Williams and Winskill

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS: Ms I. Francis, Mr R. Lovegrove, Ms C. Sykes and Ms A. Loyd.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business.
(Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 11).

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (PAGES 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 18th June 2002. (attached)

4. REPORT ON REFERRAL FROM THE STANDARDS BOARD, IF APPROPRIATE.

(Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer)

5. MAINTAINING THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS: (PAGES 5 - 6)

To make provision for the maintenance of the register of members' interests as required by the Local Government Act 2000. (Report of the deputy Monitoring Officer and oral update).

6. REGISTERING GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY TO MEMBERS: (PAGES 7 - 12)

To formalise the Register of Gifts and Hospitality, make it available for public inspection and give guidance to members on their obligations under the Code of Conduct to declare gifts and hospitality received. (Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer)

7. THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND COMMUNICATIONS: (PAGES 13 - 18)

To report proposals to assist the Standards Committee in improving it's communication with members and with members of the public. (Report of the deputy Monitoring Officer)

8. FUTURE TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS (PAGES 19 - 20)

(Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer) **To follow**

9. VISITS TO OTHER BOROUGHES AND INVITATION TO THE STANDARDS BOARD CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

To discuss visits to other authorities, visits to standards board and an invitation to standards Board representative to a meeting of the Standards Committee. (Oral)

10. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING DISPENSATIONS:

To have preliminary discussions on the development of a procedure for the consideration of dispensations.

11. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS:

To consider any new items of business admitted under item 3 above.

Councillors: Featherstone, *Haley, Laird, *Makanji, *GMMH Rahman Khan, *Reynolds, *Rice and Robertson. *Mr R. Lovegrove (Chair), Mr R.Celaire, *Ms I. Francis and *Mr N. Weber.

*Members present.

Councillor Winskill was also present.

SC1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY:

Nominations were sought for the position of Chair, following which the three nominees each addressed the Committee. The candidate with the lowest number of votes was eliminated and a further ballot held.

A further ballot was then held between the two unsuccessful nominees for the position of Deputy Chair.

RESOLVED:

1. That Roger Lovegrove, Independent member, be appointed Chair.
2. That Councillor Haley be appointed Deputy Chair.

SC2. APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mr Celaire, Councillors Featherstone, Robertson and Laird.

Councillor Featherstone had given due notice that Councillor Winskill was substituting for her.

SC3. TERMS OF REFERENCE: The Committee noted that the proposed Terms of reference, as detailed in the Council's Constitution, differed with those which were agreed by the Committee at their last meeting and adopted by Council on 15 April 2002.

RESOLVED:

That the following terms of reference be approved and that the inconsistency, as detailed above, be considered as part of the Constitution review:

- a. Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, voting co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- b. Assisting Councillors, voting co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- c. Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;

- d. Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- e. Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, voting co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- f. Granting dispensations to Councillors, voting co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- g. Dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the monitoring officer on any matter which is referred by an ethical standards officer to the monitoring officer;
- h. Determining any allegations of breach of the Members' Code of Conduct referred to the monitoring officer by an Ethical Standards Officer of the Standards Board for England.
- i. To provide high level oversight of the following :
 - internal and external audit.
 - the whistle-blowing policy.
 - Complaints and ombudsman cases.
 - the authority's constitution.

SC4. MINUTES: The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the provisions relating to hospitality and gifts applied to all members, including the Mayor (Minute SC8).

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2002 be confirmed and signed.
2. That a system be put in place for recording hospitality and gifts.

SC5. REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS (Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer – agenda item 6): Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because returns were still being made up to today and it was necessary to supply the Committee with the most up to date position. The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because the Committee needed to be aware of the current position.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and the action proposed be endorsed.
2. That Members be reminded to consider their declarations in the light of the outside body appointment at the Annual Council meeting.

3. That Members be permitted to update their registration of interests by email.
4. That officers be requested to investigate other authorities approach in respect of publishing the Register of Interests on their web sites and to report back to the next meeting.

SC6. REPORT ON THE STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE (Report of the Chair – agenda item 7):

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

SC7. LOCAL INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS – DRAFT RESPONSE TO DTLR CONSULTATION PAPER (Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer – agenda item 8): Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because views of other Monitoring Officers were awaited. The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because the Committee's response was required by 1 July 2002.

It was agreed that the proposed response to the Consultation Paper be circulated to all Members and Independent members and that their views be sought.

RESOLVED:

That the draft response, as amended below, be circulated for Member and Independent Member comment and that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to agree the final submission in consultation with the Chair, in the light of comments received:

1. Paragraph 13-15: Add at the end of the third paragraph "There may be other circumstances which will need to be defined, where early investigation by the Monitoring Officer would be appropriate".
2. Paragraph 26 and 27: Delete in the fifth paragraph option (c).

SC8. PROGRESS REPORT ON COMPLAINTS OUTSTANDING AGAINST MEMBERS (Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer – agenda item 9): Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because responses to the Monitoring Officer's enquiries were awaited. The report was urgent, as an update needed to be provided to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and in particular the proposals at paragraph 6.13.
2. That consideration be given to the imposition of strict time limits for responses to

SC9. TRAINING PROGRAMME ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ETHICAL FRAMEWORK:

RESOLVED:

That the report be deferred to the next meeting.

SC10. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING DISPENSATIONS:

RESOLVED:

That the report be deferred to the next meeting.

ROGER LOVEGROVE
Chair

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

On 30 September 2002

Report title: MAINTAINING THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
Report of: MONITORING OFFICER
1. Purpose

To make provision for the maintenance of the register of members' interests as required by the Local Government Act 2000

2. Recommendations

It is proposed that the following procedure for maintaining the register of members interests be formalised:

- The register will be updated at least once every calendar month by the office of the monitoring officer taking account of any amendments received during the relevant period.
- Following this an electronic copy of the amended register will be sent to the Civic Centre to replace the existing copy.
- At least every six months, the monitoring officer will send members a copy of their existing declaration of interests asking them to confirm its accuracy or to provide any necessary amendments.

Report authorised by: Deputy Monitoring Officer
Contact officer: John Suddaby
Telephone: 0208 489 3974
3. Executive summary

- 3.1** The Haringey Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in April 2002 requires members to make declarations of their personal interests as defined in the Code. Accordingly a new register of members' interests has been compiled.
- 3.2** The existence of the register and its availability for inspection by members of the public has been announced in the local press and in Haringey People as is required by the 2000 Act. Both Members and the monitoring officer have continuing obligations in relation to the register:

- members must signify to the monitoring officer in writing any changes to their declarations of interest within 28 days of becoming aware of them;
- the monitoring officer has a duty to maintain the register;
- the opening up of the register to public scrutiny demands that it is as accurate a record of members' interest as possible at any one time.

The proposals seek to address these issues.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development

Local Government Act 2000, Haringey Code of Conduct

4. Access to information:

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5. Report

Under the Local Government Act 2000, the monitoring officer must establish and maintain a register of interests of members and voting co-opted members of the Council.

The register has now been set up and this has been publicised in the local press with details of public access to it. This report concerns itself with proposals for the maintenance of the register.

The register consists of hard copy, declarations of interests signed by individual members together with subsequent amendments made by them. This register is kept by the monitoring officer. An electronic copy of the register is kept by the monitoring officer and at the Civic Centre and is available for public inspection there. This electronic copy is regularly updated taking into account any amendments received by the monitoring officer.

It is proposed that the following procedure for maintaining the register be formalised:

1. The register will be updated with any amendments received during the relevant period at least once every calendar month
2. Following this an electronic copy of the amended register will be sent to the Civic Centre to replace the existing copy.
3. At least every six months, the monitoring officer will send members a copy of their existing declaration of interests asking them to confirm its accuracy or to provide any necessary amendments.

Nothing in the above will detract from a member's obligation to inform the monitoring officer in writing of any changes to his/her interests within 28 days of becoming aware of them (paragraph 16 of the Code of Conduct).

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

On 30 September 2002

Report title: Registering Gifts and Hospitality to Members**Report of: Monitoring Officer****1. Purpose**

To formalise the Register of Gifts and Hospitality, make it available for public inspection and give guidance to members on their obligations under the Code of Conduct to declare gifts and hospitality received.

2. Recommendations

- For the monitoring officer to make available for public inspection the Register of Gifts and Hospitalities and to publicise this fact in the local press.
- To adopt the pro-forma for declaring the acceptance of gifts and hospitality (Appendix 1)
- To adopt the Guidance on Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality (Appendix 2)

Report authorised by: Deputy Monitoring Officer**Contact officer: John Suddaby****Telephone: 0208 489 3974****3. Executive summary**

In accordance with the Council Code of Conduct, members have to register gifts and hospitality over the value of £25 with the Monitoring Officer.

This report raises the question of whether the resulting register should be open to public scrutiny. It also provides draft guidance and a draft registration form to assist members to make their declarations.

4. Access to information:

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
Local Government Act 2000, Haringey Code of Conduct.

5. Report

5.1 Statutory Background

The Model Code of Conduct for members and voting co-opted members of Haringey adopted by the Council in April of this year under the Local Government Act 2000, requires members and co-opted members to register gifts and hospitality in the following terms:

"Registration of Gifts and Hospitality

17. A member must within 28 days of receiving any gift or hospitality over the value of £25, provide written notification to the authority's monitoring officer of the existence and nature of that gift or hospitality."

Members who fail to inform the monitoring officer of gifts/hospitality over the value of £25 which are received by them in their official capacity as members are in breach of the Haringey Code of Conduct.

2. Setting up a Register of Gifts and Hospitality

It is proposed to set up a Register of gifts and hospitality received by members to contain their declarations in this respect as made to the monitoring officer. To assist members to make the appropriate declarations it is proposed to supply them with a pro-forma upon which to make any relevant declarations (Appendix A) and at the same time to supply them with guidance notes (Appendix B).

3. Publication of Register

There is no legal requirement for any such Register of Gifts and Hospitality to be available for public scrutiny. Granting public access to the register would, however, be consistent with one of the main aims of the new ethical framework which is to increase public confidence in the probity of elected members in public authorities.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the Register of Gifts and Hospitality is made available for public inspection at the Civic Centre by visitors on appointment and that the monitoring officer advertise this availability in the local press.

Recommendations

- For the monitoring officer to make available for public inspection the Register of Gifts and Hospitalities and to publicise this fact in the local press.
- To adopt the pro-forma for declaring the acceptance of gifts and hospitality (Appendix 1)
- To adopt the Guidance on Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality (Appendix 2)

APPENDIX 1

Guidance Notes on the Acceptance and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality by Elected and Voting Co-opted and Independent Members of Haringey Council**Your Obligations under the Code**

Under Haringey Council Code of Conduct for members you must, within 28 days of their receipt, inform the monitoring officer of all gifts and hospitality received by you of a value over £25. Registration is the first and foremost means of defending yourself against any allegation of being improperly influenced by the receipt of a gift or hospitality.

Should all gifts/hospitality that you have received be registered ?

You only have to register gifts and hospitality worth over £25 that you receive in connection with your official duties as a member. You do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a member, eg, Christmas gifts from you family and friends. However, you should always consider whether any gifts and hospitality received could be seen as being connected to your role as a member. If you are in doubt about the intention of a gift or some hospitality you should speak to the monitoring officer.

You don't have to register gifts or hospitality that are worth £25 or less. You are advised, however, to consult the monitoring officer in borderline cases and where for example the circumstances surrounding the gift or hospitality appear to warrant it.

May all gifts/hospitality offered be accepted providing that they are registered?

Much depends on the gift and the circumstances surrounding it and also on whether you accept it as a gift to yourself or on behalf of the Council and donate it, for example, to the Mayor's fund.

- A general rule is that gifts or hospitality should only be accepted where the nature of the gift or hospitality is proportionate to the benefit of the authority.

The acceptance of hospitality is often an integral part of the duties of a member, however you should be clear about the benefit that may result to the authority in accepting it and also consider the context in which it occurs to identify any factors which would point against acceptance.

- You are advised not to accept gifts of any value for yourself which relate to or arise out of your position as a member.

You may accept gifts on behalf of the Council and ensure that they are donated to one of the Council's good causes e.g. the Mayor's Fund. However, you must be aware in so doing that circumstances may arise where even the acceptance of gifts on behalf of the Council may be considered improper.

Should a series of gifts, which in total are worth over £25, be registered?

If you receive a series of gifts in connection your role as a member (each worth less than £25) that add up to more than £25, it would be good practice to inform the monitoring officer about these.

- It is recommended that, in all matters concerning gifts and hospitality, you should always consider how things would look to an impartial person who was in full possession of the facts and when in doubt consult the Monitoring Officer.

Do gifts or hospitality, which have been offered but not accepted have to be registered?

- The Code of Conduct only requires you to register with the Monitoring Officer gifts or hospitality that you have received. However, you are recommended to notify the monitoring officer of all offers of gifts (of more than £25) whether accepted or not.

This is because by doing so you provide yourself additional protection in the event of unfounded allegations.

If I comply with my duty to register gifts or hospitality does this offer a complete protection against any allegations of wrongdoing associated with my accepting them?

Your declaration to the monitoring officer of any gifts or hospitality received over £25 is an important protection for you but does not absolve you from the responsibility of deciding whether the gift or hospitality is one that should be accepted in the first place.

The Local Government Act 2000 has not altered the law relating to corruption offences which specifically applies to members and officers. Under the law it is a criminal offence for a member or officer of a local authority or an agent on their behalf, corruptly to solicit or receive any gift or advantage in relation to a matter in which the local authority is concerned*. The offences created carry a maximum sentence of 7 years' imprisonment and it should be noted that any custodial sentence of 3 months or more whether actual or suspended will disqualify the member from public office.

The Courts may draw an adverse inference from an accused's silence or failure to provide rebutting information when questioned by the police on such a corruption offence. Reference to a declaration of acceptance of the gift or hospitality made to the monitoring officer would be an important way of rebutting any such inference.

*Section 1 of Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889, as supplemented by the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Please register the offer/acceptance of a gift or hospitality by filling in the form below, sign and date it and return it to the Monitoring Officer, Legal Services. Level 8 Alexandra House, Station Road, Wood Green N22 7TR

The Haringey Council code of conduct requires you to notify the Monitoring Officer of any gifts and hospitality worth more than £25 that you receive in connection with or relating to your work as an elected or co-opted member of the Council and to do this within 28 days of receiving them.

Name

Position
(state ward or position as co-opted member)

1. Please set out brief description of gift or hospitality offered

.....
.....
.....

2. What is the approximate value of gift or hospitality offered?

3. Who offered you the gift or hospitality?

4. Did you accept their offer?

If the offer of gift or hospitality was accepted please state:

5. What date did you receive the gift or hospitality?

6. Did you retain the gift yourself or did you donate it to the Mayor's Fund or other organisation?

.....(please specify)

Signed

Dated

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

On 30 September 2002

Report title: The Standards Committee and Communications

Report of: Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

Report on proposals to assist the Standards Committee in improving its communication with Members and with members of the public.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Standards Committee :

- a) Decides whether it wishes to contribute a regular item relating to ethical standards issues to the Council's **Insight** magazine
- b) Decides whether further consideration should be given to the production of a Standards Committee bulletin either in addition to or instead of a) above.
- c) Decides the level at which we may now proceed with the placing of information on the website.
- d) Decides the level at which it might in future like to place information on the website and agrees to Officers exploring the matter further, reporting back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Report authorised by: Deputy Monitoring Officer

Contact officer: John Suddaby

Telephone: 0208 489 3974

3. Executive summary

Report making proposals to the Standards Committee on how it may improve its communications with members and with the public as part of its duty to support the maintenance of high ethical standards in the Council.

4. Access to information:

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
Local Government Act 2000.

5. Report

5.1 Communications and Members

The Standards Committee has as one of its main roles the duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by elected members and voting co-opted members. This includes a role of assisting members to observe Haringey's Code of Conduct and of advising members on matters relating to the Code.

While individual questions relating to the code may best be dealt with by reference to the monitoring officer, the role of raising awareness and understanding of ethical issues and responsibility is best carried out by the Standards Committee. This will include keeping members updated on key developments at Government and Standards Board level and providing information and guidance on the way in which the new framework is being interpreted in practice across the country.

There are two possibilities for doing this:

- The Council produces a publication for members entitled **Insight** and it may be considered appropriate for members of Standards Committee to provide a regular item for this, updating members on ethical issues - including giving advice on some of the more common questions that arise.

Initial contact has been made with officers in the Communications Section who have reacted favourably to some form of regular input on these issues.

Voting co-opted and independent members are not currently part of the audience for **Insight**, so *either* they would have to be included in the circulation list *or* special arrangements would need to be made to keep them informed on an equal footing with elected Members.

- The Standards Committee may wish to consider producing its own bulletin either in place of or in addition to contributing to **Insight**. This, however, would require some commitment to regular contributions, the appointment from among members of the committee of a co-ordinating editor and would involve some consideration of the costs of publication. There would also need to be discussions about the implications for the corporate communications strategy.

2. Communications and the Public

The 2000 Act requires the monitoring officer to publicise in the local press the creation of the Council's Register of Members' Interests and its availability for inspection at Council offices.

Some local authorities, in addition to this requirement, have placed or are planning to place a copy of their Register of Members' on their web-sites. An initial survey has produced the information at Appendix 1.

The new ethical framework ushered in by the Local Government Act 2000 aims to improve the ethical governance of public authorities and in turn to heighten public awareness and confidence in the probity of the running of local government.

It is intended, as part of its obligations under this framework, that Haringey will place on its web site general information (ie. information not containing details of named people) about the Code of Conduct, Registration of Interests/Gifts and Hospitality the Standards Committee, etc.

The question to be addressed is the extent (if any) to which we should go beyond this by giving some details about named people. Various levels of detail are possible:

- **Level 1 General information only**

With no details about named people

- **Level 2 details (names only)**

Names of SC members, indicating the Chair and Deputy Chair. Possibly also with the names of the Monitoring Officer and the Secretary to SC.

- **Level 3 details (names and limited contact details)**

As Level 2, but with haringey.gov.uk email addresses, possibly as clickable links

- **Level 4 details (names and addresses)**

As level 3 but with home addresses (Office addresses for Officers)

- **Level 5 (Register of Interests)**

As level 4 but with the contents of the Register of Interests for *everyone who is required to register his/her interests*.

Note that, for SC members (and others, of course) who own property (including their own home) within Haringey, the Register of Interests will include the person's home address. It is therefore in general not possible to publish the Register of Interests without giving home address.

- **Level 6 (Register of Gifts and Hospitality)**

As Level 5, but also giving details of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality

5.3 Decisions needed

It is asked that the Standards Committee :

- a) Decides whether it wishes to contribute a regular item relating to ethical standards issues to the Council's **Insight** magazine
- b) Decides whether further consideration should be given to the production of a Standards Committee bulletin either in addition to or instead of a) above.

- c) Decides the level at which we may now proceed with the placing of information on the website.
- d) Decides the level at which it might in future like to place information on the website and agrees to Officers exploring the matter further, reporting back to the next meeting of the Committee.

APPENDIX I

Responses from other Authorities to putting the Register of Interest on to their websites.

Kingston	Not yet but will be.
Camden	Yes
Redbridge	Not yet
Islington	No
Bromley	Yes
Richmond	Were going to, but are now having 2nd thoughts. Monitoring Officer's seeking advice from the solicitors working with the Council on Data Protection Compliance .
Barking and Dagenham	Doesn't look like we will as some Members are concerned about it
Waltham Forest	Not yet
Barnet	No
Harrow	We have no plans to publish our register on the web, but it will be discussed with our SC in due course. Even if SC agree, we would only put the entry for those individual members who consent onto the web.
Merton	Not doing so yet but it will be an item for discussion by the Standards Cttee in due course.
Ealing	No
Lewisham	In the long term yes
Tower Hamlets	Yes its our intention
Sutton	Not at the moment
Hammersmith & Fulham	No - but thinking about it
Enfield	No but we may do in the future.
Brent	No
Greenwich	No
Hillingdon	We do not currently do this but it is something that our Monitoring Officer has considered. While it is definitely a good idea in principle and will extend public information there is one possible drawback in that it could give wide circulation to Members' home addresses. When we compile our list of names and addresses of Members some of them are reluctant to give details of their homes

	because of experience of harassment in the past. We would need to give careful consideration to how to overcome this problem before putting the register on the Council's web site.
Havering	No
Kensington & Chelsea	It is not on our website and I'm not aware of any plans to put it there.
Croydon	Croydon hasn't done so yet but we're looking at it subject to Members' agreement (and the Standards Board's advice on the Data Protection Act implications of putting the Register on the Web) and the logistics of ensuring that the electronic and paper versions can be promptly updated so that they always coincide.
Corporation of London	No, this authority will not be placing the register on the internet
Wandsworth	Our Register of Members' is (or soon will be) available on our website, and Members are able to make changes themselves on-line.
Lambeth	No
London Fire and Emergency PA	No

Summary

Yes 2

No 16

Possibly in future 9

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
On 30 September 2002

Report title: Training for members on Ethical Standards

Report of: Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

To update the Standards Committee on proposals for members' training.

2. Recommendations

- That a further two sessions of training on the Code of Conduct are planned in conjunction with IDEA and in liaison with Members Services and that the support of the Council leadership and party leaderships is enlisted in promoting these sessions.
- That the Standards Committee consider other training initiatives including whether to send out a questionnaire to members to find out their perceived training needs in this area.

Report authorised by: Deputy Monitoring Officer

Contact officer: John Suddaby

Telephone: 0208 489 3974

3. Executive summary

Report makes proposals for continuing training programme for members on ethical standards and the Haringey Code of Conduct for members.

4. Access to information:

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
Local Government Act 2000

5. Report

The Standards Committee has a responsibility to advise and train members on the Haringey Code of Conduct.

Training has taken place on the new code in two phases:

- An introduction to the new ethical framework and the model code of conduct. Most present members, including newly elected ones have attended this.
- A more participative training session aimed at applying the Code to the kind of situations that members may face in carrying out their duties was carried out in July in conjunction with IDEA. One session of this nature was held and was attended by 11 members.

Concern has been expressed at the poor attendance at this last session and officers have been asked to bring proposals forward for further training initiatives for members.

The poor attendance from members may have a variety of causes. First and foremost it probably reflects the difficulty members have in juggling their time to allow for attendance at committees, constituency work and attendance at what are seen as less essential events. It may also reflect a lack of awareness about the significant changes that the new Code of Conduct and the new ethical framework have ushered in.

6. Proposals

It is proposed that a further two sessions of Applying the Code be planned with some co-ordination with members services to ensure that dates and times as far as possible allow members with different domestic and work patterns to attend. It is proposed that the Standards Committee enlist the support of the Council/Party Leaderships in promoting these additional sessions.

It is also proposed that the Standards Committee make an assessment of the need for future training and consider now whether conducting a survey of members' perceived needs would assist them in this.