

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

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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.