



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Standards Committee

On 8th October 2007

Report Title: **Training on the Revised Member Code of Conduct**

Forward Plan reference number :

Report of: **Monitoring Officer**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: Non – Key decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on the training given to Members and Officers on the revised Member Code of Conduct and to make proposals for ongoing training.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members of the Standards Committee are asked to note the progress made so far in training on the new code and to consider the proposals in the report for follow up training.

3.2 Members are also asked to consider whether they wish further training to be organised relating to local determinations in preparation for the start of the local filter arrangements anticipated to take effect from 1 April 2007

Report Authorised by: **Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **John Suddaby – Monitoring Officer**

4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 Any financial implications for Member training will be covered by the Member training budget

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

There are no legal implications

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. Report

7.1 Training in the Revised Code of Conduct has been conducted as follows:

A Special Standards Committee on 30 April at which a briefing on the revised code was given to members of the Standards Committee

Two Member training sessions – 23 May 2007 and 19 June 2007 have been completed.

In addition, the Monitoring Officer has given briefings to a meeting of CAB (at which members of CEMB were also in attendance) on 14 June 2007 and has also given a briefing at the Labour Majority Group meeting on 21 June 2007 and at the Liberal Democrat Group Meeting on 4 July 2007. In all 42 Members have so far been briefed on the changes in the Code of Conduct.

7.2 Proposed follow up measures

The following is proposed to follow up the training already given

1. 2 training sessions for those Members (15) who have not yet had briefings on the Code –dates are currently being fixed and may be reported to Committee
2. Attendance of Monitoring Officer at Committee meetings – at Planning Committee on 29 October to give short briefing (before this meeting the Standards Board DVD on the Revised Code will be shown).
3. Briefing of Senior Officers – Briefings will be given at Directorate Management Team meetings and these are being arranged.
4. Showing of the new SBE DVD (at tonight's Standards Committee) at a meeting of CAB and at meetings of the political groups/before Council meetings.

7.3 Future Training for Members

It is expected that the local filter for complaints which will involve the Standards Committee in receiving and sifting complaints and deciding whether to conduct a local investigation into them will come into effect on 1 April 2007. This is the projected date but has yet to be confirmed.

When the details of the new arrangements are published it will be important to construct and implement appropriate training for Members of the Standards Committee so that Committee members can effectively administer the new arrangements. At that stage further briefing sessions for Members as a whole will also have to be considered.

It is not possible to predict with any accuracy the impact that the new arrangements will have on the number of complaints – whether to increase or decrease their number. Whatever happens, however, the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer will have an enhanced role in the procedure for considering allegations of breach of the Code. It would be helpful for the Standards Committee to review their perceived training needs as of now – considering for example whether a further training session on the local determinations proceedings (mock hearing) or a training session on writing up a local determinations decision would be helpful.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications of Member training will be covered by the Members' training budget

9. Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 There are no equalities implications

11. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs