

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Advisory Committee

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

REVIEW OF STANDARDS TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

1. Purpose of Report

This report updates the Committee on the level of training received by Members in relation to standards and the Code of Conduct and reviews what the needs might be for ongoing and refresher training.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The delivery of the Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities is dependent on good governance arrangements being in place in order that the Council has a transparent and accountable process for effective decision-making. This is underpinned by the Code of Conduct, which forms the bedrock of the conduct regime for Members by seeking to ensure ethical behaviour and governance of the highest order is maintained.

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of this report.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The Council is under a statutory duty to adopt a code of conduct maintain a register of members' interests.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 A Member development session on *Standards Training and the Code of Conduct* was held 3rd June 2014 specifically targeted at newly elected Councillors, but open to all members to attend. The session was attended by all 13 newly elected Members and 18 re-elected Members.
- 5.2 The presenters - Kevin Gordon, Assistant Director, Professional Services and Catherine Meek, Head of Democratic Services – facilitated a practical 1½ hour session using case studies supported by slides with references to the constitution on the modern.gov pages via members' iPads.
- 5.3 To support the formal facilitated sessions we are developing informal learning activities, including e-learning, to reinforce good practices. We will continuously evaluate the confidence of members in adhering to the code and principles of public life and use these assessments to shape future training on standards.
- 5.4 A dedicated Members' portal is currently being set up which members will be able to conveniently access for viewing relevant resources, documents and materials on the slough.gov website.

6. Conclusion

Having considered the level of training undertaken by Members, the Committee are invited to comment on future requirements.

7. Background Papers

None.