

Item 5

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

05th JULY 2007

REPORT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEMBERS: 2007

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the training arrangements for Members throughout 2007.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that it is a mandatory requirement to attend at least one qualifying training event during the year. Henceforward details of member attendance/non attendance will be publicly available.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.2 That Standards Committee be appraised of the Report and note future training events.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 All the changes to the Code of Conduct were covered by the Monitoring Officer at the Post Election Member Induction on Standards and Ethics, which was held on the 10th May 2007.
- 3.2 A Standards Board Roadshow took place in Newcastle on the 12th June 2007, where the Council was represented. The purpose of the event was to give an overview of the revised Code of Conduct, and outline the Challenges for 2008, including the local filter for complaints and a more strategic role for the Standards Board. The issues of predetermination and bias were addressed, although not part of the Code, both are important for Members and Monitoring Officers. Attendees were given the opportunity to discuss their concerns and share their views on the revised Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 A training session facilitated by Peter Keith-Lucas of Bevan Brittan Solicitors took place on the 27th June 2007 at Ferryhill Leisure Centre, and covered in detail the changes to the Code. The event provided the opportunity for discussion on areas of the revised Code; how complaints arise, how they are dealt with; the pre-hearing process. The event was aimed at Members of Local Authority Standards Committees, Monitoring Officers and their Deputies and Town and Parish Clerks and their Members. A further report later in the year will evaluate this event in detail.
- 3.4 In the autumn of 2007, training sessions, to be delivered by the Council's Monitoring Officer will be held, focusing on the ethical

environment and the revised Code of Conduct. These sessions will be aimed at Borough Members and Town and Parish Councillors; details are as follows:

- Ferryhill Town Council: Wednesday 29th August 2007, 6.00p.m
- Great Aycliffe Town Council: Wednesday 5th September 2007, 6.30p.m.
- Sedgefield Town Council: Monday 17th September 2007 (*Time TBC*)
- Spennymoor Town Council: Wednesday 26th September 2007, 6.30p.m.

3.5 Also, in the autumn of 2007 several training sessions are planned for Borough Members, including the screening of the Standards Board's Videos/DVDs and a presentation on Regulatory Committees, details are to be confirmed.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific financial implications have been identified.

5. CONSULTATIONS

5.1 The Council's Management Team has considered this report.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 All material considerations have been taken into account in the contents of this report. In particular, risks may arise unless Members of Council are fully appraised on standards matters.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None apply.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

8.1 None apply.

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Wards: N/A

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Council’s Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council’s S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council’s Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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