



Walsall Council

Standards Committee

12 July 2010

Training for Elected Members 2010/11

Summary of Report

This report sets out proposals for members training during the municipal year 2010/11.

Recommendations

- (1) That the content of the report be noted
- (2) That the Committee are requested to consider whether there are any further areas of training which could be included in the training programme.

Resource Considerations:

Financial:

It is anticipated that any training will be conducted in house and that training will take place at council venues, there are no financial implications associated for with this report save for officer time in preparing for an delivering the training.

Legal:

None arising from this report

Staffing:

None arising from this report

Citizen Impact:

None arising from this report

Community Safety:

None arising from this report

Environmental:

None arising from this report

Performance and Risk Management:

Risk:

The risk of members not being trained could lead to unsafe decision making

Performance Management:

None arising from this report

Equality Implications:

This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity

Consultation:

None arising from this report

Background papers

All published



Signed:

Bhupinder Gill

**Assistant Director Legal &
Constitutional Services and Monitoring
Officer**

Date: 2 July 2010



Signed:

Rory Borealis

Executive Director (Resources)

Date: 5 July 2010

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As part of its statutory duty, the Standards Committee, via the Monitoring Officer is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards by members and co-opted members of the authority. In carrying out these functions, the Standards Committee ensures that members are appropriately trained on the Members' Code of Conduct and associated ethical governance issues.

During the municipal year 2009/10, training was offered to all elected and co-opted members on the Code of Conduct. The Course, which was successfully delivered by Judith Barnes of Eversheds Solicitors, covered a range of subjects which included:

- Update on changes to the ethical framework
- Discussion on the Code of Conduct
- Brief explanation on the enforcement regime
- Party political publicity
- Rules for election time

In order to build upon training which has taken place to date, the Committee are asked to consider development of a training programme on ethical governance issues which we would propose delivering during 2010/11 of which both elected and co-opted members will be invited to attend.

It is further suggested that initial courses should cover the two important areas of:

- Declarations of interest
- Predetermination, predisposition and bias

In addition to these topics, the Committee are asked to consider whether there are any further areas of training which should be included in the training programme with a full Training Schedule presented at the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

As members may be aware, the Government is planning some major changes to existing legislation which could have an effect on the Standards Committee amongst other things.