



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**All Wards - Corporate Issue**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
**Standards Committee**

**23 June 2003**

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**Review of Training and Development**

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**Report of the Town Clerk and Corporate Director of  
Resources, Access and Diversity**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To review progress on Member Training and Development relating to matters of ethical standards and probity.

**2. Report**

Actions to Date

- 2.1. The Committee last considered Training and Development at the meeting on 31 October 2002, when they agreed a forward programme of training and development for Members of the Standards Committee, Elected Members and officers of the Council, to ensure that matters of probity and standards of conduct were embedded within the organisation.
- 2.2. The period since that time has been one of significant activity and change within the Council, not least arising out of the City Council elections held on 1 May 2003. Much of the Member Training and Development has been focussed on these Members of the new Council. Major activities in that time have included:-
- ★ Election Candidate Information and Briefing on Ethics and Probity
  - ★ Induction Workshops on Ethics and Probity for Members of the new Council (introduced by the Standards Committee Co-Chairs)
  - ★ Training for Members who may sit on the Development Control Committee (attended by Caroline Roberts, Co-Chair of the Standards Committee)
- 2.3. In addition, Caroline Roberts has been closely involved in co-ordinating the National Standards Board Annual National Assembly, as well as attending the event, and Tom Stephenson facilitated a session at the Nottingham session of the National Standards Board Regional Roadshows.

24. The individual Assessment of Training Needs for Individual Councillors, which will incorporate an identification of any ethics/probity training needs is currently being piloted before being rolled out to all Members.

### The Next Steps

- 2.5. The Forward Programme of training and development is not yet complete, with the following items remaining to be undertaken:-
- ★ Further training for Co-optees, building on that already provided.
  - ★ Training in partnership working (to be undertaken once the Council representation on Outside Bodies has been concluded)
  - ★ Officer training, notably on the new Officer Code of Conduct, once the national provisions have been published.
- 2.6. In addition, further elements which have been identified and which include a probity/ethical standards element are as follows:-
- ★ Licensing – including the new legislative provisions relating to liquor licenses, etc.
  - ★ Public Speaking/Debating/Media Training to ensure that appropriate and, indeed, legal boundaries are both understood and adhered to.
- 2.7. Finally, the recently initiated regular Members Information Bulletin is seen as a vehicle through which Members can be briefed and updated on specific issues of ethics and probity. Examples which come to mind include extracts from the National Standards Board and frequently asked questions (FAQ's) taken from the Standards Board website and their publication 'the Case Review'.

### **3. Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:-

- (i) comment upon the continuing programme of training and development.
- (ii) subject to any changes arising out of recommendation (i) above, agreed to and support the proposed continuing programme of training and development.

### **4. Headline Financial and legal Implications**

The provision of the training and development programme will be achieved through a mixture of external opportunities and in-house provision. The costs, however, can be contained within existing budgetary provision.

Legislation, notably the Local Government Act 1972 and Local Government Act 2000, imposes a number of requirements on Elected Members, including voting co-optees and officers in relation to matters of ethics and probity. This report seeks to ensure that all those so affected receive sufficient training to enable them to fulfil their legal obligations.

**5. Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

**6. Background Papers**

None

**7. Consultations**

**8. Report Author/Officer to contact:**

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