



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
Type in Ward

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Standards Committee

25 January 2006

Future Member Training in Issues of Ethics and Probity

Report of the Town Clerk

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the Committees guidance on future member training in issues of ethnic and probity, with particular reference to induction and refresher training following the May 2007 City Council elections.

2. REPORT

The Council's Members Development Forum – a group which co-ordinate and steers training and development for Elected Members within the Authority – is starting to address the training and development requirements associated with the May 2007 City Council elections. The group is giving attention both to pre-election briefing for anyone potentially interested in standing for Council and training and development for those subsequently elected (whether newly elected or existing Councillors).

The Members Development Forum are currently considering two pre-election modules. The first of these modules would provide an overview of the Elected Members roles and responsibilities and some of the significant implications of being a councillor (in terms of time commitments, resource requirements, financial implications etc).

The second module would provide greater depth for those who have decided to pursue their initial interest.

In addition, the forum are also starting to give initial consideration as to the content of Member Induction Training, immediately following the election.

In terms of the Pre-election modules for prospective candidates, the Committee may wish to express views as to what input from a ethical standards and probity perspective should be incorporated into the content and how that would best be delivered.

Similarly, the committee may wish to revisit the induction training provided in May 2003 immediately after the City Council elections. That featured both the opportunity for members to sign their formal acceptance of office (rather than, as previously, being done at the count on election night) followed by a training session on the political

conventions (including members and code of conduct) and related issues. As the acceptance of office is a statutory requirement, before members can perform their duties, the linking with the associated training meant that this training had the highest attendance of any throughout the induction process. The committee may, therefore, wish to support a replication of this process.

By May 2007 it is also anticipated that the revised Member Code of Conduct will be in being. This would further emphasise the need for all Members (existing and newly elected) to attend such training to ensure full awareness by all members of the new provisions. The Committee may also wish to comment on the extent of their involvement in any such training. In 2003, for example, the two independent Chairs shared attendance at the briefing sessions as well as providing an introductory context to each of the sessions.

In addition, the Committee will be aware that as a pre-requisite to participation in the Development Control Committee, Members of that committee require specific training, with an annual refresher. The additional licensing regulatory function now undertaken by the council requires a similar level of training and the committee may also wish to determine that such training, both initial and annual refresher, should be a pre-requisite of participation on the Licensing and associated committees/panels.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider and comment upon the extent to which ethnics and probity issues should be included in prospective candidate briefings.
- ii) Confirm the need for ethnic and probity training (including refresher) for all Members elected to the Council in May 2007 and whether this should again be linked to the signing of the formal acceptance of office and also the role to be played in that training by members of the Standards Committee.
- iii) Determine whether the current pattern of compulsory training (including annual refresher) for members of the Development Control Committee should be similarly extended to those members on the Licensing Committee and associated panels.

4. Financial Implications

None.

5. Legal Implications

No additional legal implications.
(Peter Nicholls, Head of Legal Services).

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	None		
Policy	Yes	Policy re development control and licensing training.	
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	None		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

7. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

None.

8. Consultations

None.

6. Report Author

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