



Committee and date
Standards Committee

28 January 2010

4.00 p.m.

Item

7

Public
Paper

PROMOTION OF TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

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Summary

Members of the Committee are requested to consider the options available to it in order to encourage Members of the Council to attend relevant training sessions. Members are asked to consider that an incentive is provided and to give consideration to the options available to encourage attendance of Members at training sessions.

Recommendations

- A. That members consider which, if any, of the options identified in paragraph 5 of the report to recommend to Council.

Report

1. It is essential that Members of the Council are adequately trained in their role if they are to effectively and efficiently represent the people who elected them.
2. It is considered essential that the following elements of the induction training programme for members should be undertaken by all members:
 - a. Code of Conduct
 - b. Corporate Parenting
 - c. Equality and Diversity
 - d. Safeguarding
3. Decisions taken by members who are insufficiently prepared in these key areas could, if successfully challenged, result in the Shropshire Council and/or individual Councillors being publicly criticised, with reputational damage for the longer term. In addition, this could result

in, amongst other things, incurring unnecessary expenditure in defending the action or putting things right after the event.

4. Members appointed to certain Committees (eg Licensing, Planning etc) are also required to undertake specialist training and it is generally accepted that such training must be completed before sitting on that particular Committee. This specialist training is not included in the essential training requirement for all members, but now should be.
5. In order to encourage Members to undertake such essential training, the following options may be considered appropriate:
 - a. That Group Leaders be expected to assist officers in ensuring that all members have undertaken the essential training together with any additional specific training that may be required for specific roles.
 - b. To amend the Constitution so that members are not appointed to any Committee dealing with Planning or Licensing by their Group Leader until such time as they have completed the essential training.
 - c. To request that Group Leaders ensure that all members of their Group who have not undertaken the essential training remain after meetings of the Full Council to receive the relevant training. A report could be included on the agenda to assist in the process indicating which training session is to be provided and names of those members at which the training is aimed.
 - d. A combination of the above.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Members Allowance Scheme
Induction Training Schedule
Human Rights Act Appraisal
The contents of this report are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998
Environmental Appraisal
These proposals will have no significant impact on the environment
Risk Management Appraisal
Poor take up by members of training opportunities may reduce the capacity of members to carry out their roles effectively
Community / Consultations Appraisal
N/A
Cabinet Member
N/A
Local Member
All
Appendices
N/A