



<u>Committee and date</u> Standards Committee
08 July 2009
4.00 p.m.

<u>Item</u>
<b>7</b>
Public

<u>Paper</u>
<b>E</b>

## Standards Committee Training

**Responsible Officer** Claire Porter

Email: [claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01743 252763

---

### Summary

Many members of the Standards Committee have experience of the local determination process from membership of the previous authorities. All members of the Committee have received training on assessment and review decisions. It is proposed that training on Local Determination Hearings will be provided at such time as it becomes necessary to call such Hearing Sub Committee.

### Recommendations

- A. That the Contents of the report be noted.
- B. Members are requested also to consider other requirements they may have in relation to ethics and standards training.

### Report

1. It is essential that Members of the Standards Committee are adequately trained in their role if they are to effectively and efficiently carry out their roles.
2. Complainants need to have confidence that complaints about member conduct are taken seriously and this must be balanced against the cost in terms of both public money and the officers' and members' time. Members need to take into account the public benefit in investigating complaints which are less serious, politically motivated, malicious or vexatious
3. Many members of the Standards Committee have experience of the local determination process from membership of the previous authorities and of the Shropshire Council. Below are details of the members of the committee with their experience to date of membership of Local Authorities and their Standards Sub Committees:

Name	Status	Experience	Assessment Sub Committee	Review Sub Committee	Hearing Sub Committee
Mrs J Buckley	Independent Member	SABC Standards Committee Chairman		✓	✓
Mr T Griffiths	Independent Member	SCC Standards Committee		✓	
Mr D S McLaren	Independent Member	SSDC Standards Committee	✓		
Mr P Moore	Independent Member	SSDC Standards Committee		✓	✓
Mr W Maddocks	Independent Member	NSDC Standards Committee			
Mr G J Parry	Independent Member				
Mr M Salt	Independent Member	BDC Standards Committee	✓		
Mr J Till	Independent Member	SABC Standards Committee	✓		✓
Mrs C Carlyle	Parish Representative	SABC Standards Committee	✓		✓
Professor Pauline M Collins OBE	Parish Representative			✓	
Mrs A Dugdale	Parish Representative				
Mrs E M Francis	Parish Representative	SABC Standards Committee	✓	✓	✓
Mrs Rae Griffiths	Parish Representative				
Mr M Bennett	Shropshire Councillor	OBC Standards Committee	✓		✓
Mrs Pauline Dee	Shropshire Councillor	NSDC Standards Committee			
Mr V Hunt	Shropshire Councillor	OBC			
Dr J Jones	Shropshire Councillor	BDC			
Mr C J Mellings	Shropshire Councillor	SCC Standards Committee			
Mr Roger Evans	Shropshire Councillor	SABC Standards Committee			

4. In addition to the wealth of experience, members of the committee attended a training session at the Shirehall on 19 March 2009. Members of the Shropshire Council have also undertaken a

comprehensive induction programme which included training on the code of conduct and the complaints procedure.

5. At the meeting of the Committee which was held on 7 April 2009, Members requested training on the code of conduct and the complaints process. It was hoped that this could be provided during May and this proved not to be possible. A session to deal with these issues is now likely to take place in September.
6. Arrangements are being made for a training session on Chairing Meetings to be held. This may focus on the Independent Members who are required to chair the meetings of the Standards Committee and its sub Committees and it is hoped that this will take place in July.
7. No training has been provided in relation to Hearing Sub Committees at this stage. It is anticipated that this will be arranged at such time as it becomes necessary to hold a meeting of the Hearing Sub Committee.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

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**

Inadequate training provision 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