

To: Standards Committee

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Item No: 9

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To update the Committee on member training

**Key decision:** No

**Report Approved by:**

**Finance:** N/A

**Legal:** Jeremy Thomas

**Policy Framework:** Not applicable

**Recommendation(s):** That that the report be noted

1. The Committee is responsible for advising and arranging training for councillors and for co-opted members on all aspects of the Members' Code of Conduct. The Committee will be aware that the Members' Allowances Scheme is linked to training on the Code, on planning and on licensing. If members do not attend such training reasonably offered, their basic member's allowance is reduced by 15% until they do attend.
2. Training was offered and carried in June and July this year, upon three occasions for each required type. Most members attended. We have recently provided training for those members who did not attend in July. As a result, all but two members have undertaken planning training and all but two members have attended Code training. Licensing training is being addressed by offering it immediately before licensing hearings.

3. The two members who have not attended planning training will be offered a last opportunity to do so on a one to one basis in December. The two members who have not attended Code training are being offered specific one to one training by the monitoring officer. If arrangements for this cannot be made by the end of December (i.e. if members cannot attend dates reasonably offered) then their allowances will be reduced by 15% in the New Year.
4. The required or mandatory training will be repeated in June/July next year, for all members and, unless Council decides otherwise, non-attendance will result in a reduction in the basic member allowance.
5. The Committee is being asked to note the contents of this report.

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**Background papers : None**

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