

Title of Report: REQUIRED TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

Report of : Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To : Standards Committee

Date : 2nd October 2009

Item No 4(a)

Purpose of report : To advise the Committee about attendance by Members at the required training sessions on the Code of Conduct, planning and development control and licensing

Recommendation(s) : To note the report

Key decision : No

Portfolio Holder : Not applicable

Scrutiny Responsibility : Not applicable

Ward(s) affected : All

Report Approved by: Legal:Jeremy Thomas

Policy Framework : Not applicable

1. Link Between Members' Allowances and Training

1.1 In approving the Members' Allowances Scheme on 19th January 2009 Council agreed that a 15% reduction in the basic allowance payable in that financial year would be made in respect of each member who fails to attend the required training sessions for:

- Planning and development control
- Licensing, for any member appointed to a Licensing Committee
- Members Code of Conduct and associated matters,

provided that the member had been invited to attend such training within one month of the annual meeting of Council. Council also decided that induction training for members newly elected or re-elected would count as required training, but we have not had a local or casual election since Council reached its decision.

- 1.2 Council also decided that where training was repeated later in the financial year and attended by a member subject to the reduction in the basic allowance, then the full monthly payment of basic allowance would be resumed in the next payment month following the training and in each month thereafter until the end of the financial year.
- 1.3 Council also resolved that these arrangements be reviewed with the basic allowance review in the context of the budget for 2010/11. (On the basic allowance, Council had earlier decided that it should not be increased in line with any officer pay increases but that decision be reviewed with the 2010/11 Budget).

2. Required Training

- 2.1 Training in the various elements was provided in June and July as follows:

- (a) Code of Conduct

22nd June – afternoon
3rd July – morning
8th July – evening

- (b) Planning and Development Control

29th June – morning
8th July – afternoon
16th July – evening

- (c) Licensing

22nd June – evening
29th June – afternoon
Training in licensing was also offered on the morning of 8th July but was cancelled because of lack of member take up.

3. Member attendance

- 3.1 In total, three members did not attend licensing training on any of the dates offered, five members did not attend Code training and six members did not attend planning training. We will be offering training in each element on probably one occasion in October, consulting the 3, 5 and 6 members in an attempt to identify a mutually convenient date. After that, if a member has not attended, we will give effect to Council's decision to reduce that member's basic allowance by 15%.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is being asked to note the position.

Name and contact details of author:-

William Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Town Hall Oxford OX1 4EY
Tel: 01865 252230 e-mail: wreed@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers: None