

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 24th May 2010

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Subject: Training for Members

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report invites the Standards Committee to consider its training needs and identify training to be delivered to promote the ethical framework.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the contents of this report be considered.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The role of the Standards Committee is set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. Amongst other things the Committee is responsible for ensuring that Members receive advice and training as appropriate on the Members' Code of Conduct.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The work of the Standards Committee contributes to the Annual Governance Statement of the Council. Any training delivered through the Standards Committee will help support high standards and develop good governance.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Standards Committee discharges the Council's functions under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent regulations.

The roles and responsibilities of Standards Committees are set out in the Local Assessment Framework Guidance.

8.0 Risk Management

- 8.1 The Council has identified complaints under the Local Assessment Framework as a significant risk. Through a training programme, the Committee can encourage behaviours that will support high levels of conduct and reduce the likelihood of complaints being made.

9.0 Background and Options

- 9.1 The function of the Standards Committee is set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. The remit of the Committee includes -

- Ensuring that Members receive advice and training as appropriate on the Members' Code of Conduct;

- 9.2 This also includes Members of Town and Parish Councils.

- 9.3 The Local Standards Framework Guidance recommends that training on the Code of Conduct and the functions of Standards Committees and Assessment Sub-Committee, the Hearing Sub-Committee and the Review Sub-Committee should be given to both independent and elected Members of its Standards Committee.

- 9.4 To ensure that the Standards Committee is fulfilling its functions as set out in the Constitution, the Committee is asked to develop a training programme designed around its responsibilities.

- 9.5 This Committee received some initial training in July 2009 on planning.

- 9.6 At the conclusion of this meeting, Members will be able to view a DVD from Standards for England on local assessment matters entitled "Assessment Made Clear".

- 9.7 The Council will be providing planning training for all Members as part of the Member Development Programme 2010-2011 and Members of this Committee will be invited to attend.

- 9.8 The Committee is asked to consider any further training requirements for its Members for 2010-2011.

- 9.9 As part of the induction process Members of Cheshire East Council were given an overview and update on the Code of Conduct. The Committee is asked to consider any further training requirements for Members of Cheshire East Council.

- 9.10 The Committee has previously considered training for Town and Parish Councillors and this will be considered further when the new Code of Conduct has been published by Standards for England.

10.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 10.1 None identified.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Chris Chapman
Designation: Monitoring Officer
Tel No: 01270 686637
Email: chris.chapman@cheshireeast.gov.uk