

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards (Advisory) Committee 21 June 2018	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Member Induction Update	

Originating Officer(s)	Beverley McKenzie, Head of Members' Support
Wards affected	All Wards

Executive Summary

The report provides an update on the progress of the Member Induction programme for new and returning Members following the May 2018 Council elections. The report includes details on the statutory and non-statutory training that has been conducted.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the progress of the Member Induction programme.
2. Note the present completion level of the statutory committee training.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Member learning and development is provided to enhance knowledge of the Council, ensure that Councillors receive up to date information on services and are equipped with the training required to undertake their roles as Councillors.
- 1.2 In addition, Councillors appointed to regulatory committees are required to receive training on an annual basis. This must be completed prior to the Councillor being required to act on the Committee.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The progress of the Member Induction programme and compliance with the

training requirements for regulatory committees could be not reported to the Standards Advisory Committee and managed through internal processes only.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 The political composition of the authority following the Council elections on 3rd May 2018 is:

Labour Group - 42 Councillors
 Conservative Group - 2 Councillors
 Ungrouped / People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets – 1 Councillor

3.2 This included the arrival of 28 newly appointed Councillors, of which 25 had no previous experience on the Council.

3.3 All Candidates were provided with the Members' Induction Programme and the Code of Conduct, prior to the election and all Councillors elected were made aware of the training dates following their election.

3.4 In the 5 weeks following the election a total of 15 sessions, covering 11 separate topics, have been held for the Councillors. The session details and attendance are as follows:

Chairing Skills	14
Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding of Children	34
Development / Strategic Development Committee	16
Effective Scrutiny	13
Ethics & Probity	30
Ethics & Probity 2	3
Ethics & Probity 3	1
Ethics & Probity-Autumn 2017	13
Governance & Decision Making	27
ICT, Info Governance, Mod.gov, Members Hub & Enquiries	50
Licensing	16
Making your ICT Kit Work for You	11
PREVENT and Civil Contingencies	38
Setting the Scene	46

3.5 The induction sessions continue to be delivered, in accordance with the agreed programme.

3.6 Ethics and Probity Training has been completed for all new Councillors. Returning Councillors that attended one of the Ethics and Probity sessions held in autumn 2017 were not required to repeat the session.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There have been no equalities implications in the provision of the Member Induction programme. All sessions are tailored to the needs of those attending to ensure maximum participation and learning.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Training for the regulatory committees has been conducted for the Licensing Committee and the Development/Strategic Development Committee. At the time of writing, there remain 2 members of the Licensing Committee that require training and 6 members of the Development/Strategic Development Committee that require training. The clerks of the committees are aware of the training requirement and additional training sessions are being arranged to ensure the members to attend the training, prior to taking part in any meeting.
- 5.2 Training for the Appointments and Employee Appeals committee has not yet been conducted. This will be arranged prior to any Councillors being required to act in those roles.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 Following the May 2018 Council elections, this report provides an update on the progress of the Members Induction programme.
- 6.2 There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report except cost of training which is met from existing budgets.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council's Licensing and Planning Codes of Conduct (sections 6 and 4 respectively) include specific requirements for Councillors to attend mandatory training which must be completed before sitting as a member of the Development or Licensing Committees or any sub-committees. In addition, Section 27(1) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority. In discharging this duty the Council is required by section 27(2) of the 2011 Act to adopt a Code of Conduct which applies to all Members and Co-opted Members when acting in an official capacity. The Member Induction and Training Programme will assist the authority in discharging this statutory responsibility.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

n/a