

Committee: STANDARDS COMMITTEE	Date: 20th January 2009	Classification: UNRESTRICTED	Report No.	Agenda Item No. 4.1
Report Of: Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)		Title: Ethical Standards/Governance - Training - Progress and Update Report		
Originating Officer: Isabella Freeman		Wards Affected: All		

DRAFT

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of progress and the current position in respect of Member training relating to ethical governance/standards issues.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider and note the content of this report

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 (SECTION 97)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"

Tick if copy
supplied for register

If not supplied, name
and telephone number
of holder

Standards Committee file

Isabella Freeman 020 7364 4800

3. ETHICAL GOVERNANCE/STANDARDS TRAINING

3.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting high standards of conduct and specifically:

- Advising on the training of Councillors, co-opted Members and church, other faith and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.2 The Committee last received a report on ethical governance/standards related training in April 2008 and this further report outlines the current position on progress with training in these areas:

3.3 **Understanding Planning and Planning Probity – 29 May and 4 June 2008.** Annual mandatory training for members of the Development and Strategic Development Committees.

3.4 **Licensing – Code of Conduct and Best Practice – 3 June 2008 and 5 January 2009.** Annual mandatory training for members of the Licensing Committee.

3.5 **Revised Code of Conduct for Members – 3 June and 23 July 2008.** The continuation of a series of training sessions (which started in December 2007) being run to ensure that Members have been trained on the revised Code of Conduct adopted by full Council on 11 September 2007. This programme is now almost complete but there are a small number of Councillors and Independent/Co-Opted Members that have yet to attend this training. Arrangements are therefore being made to carry out the training for individuals or small groups so that the programme is fully completed by the end of March 2009 and so that a Members' Ethical Standards Self Assessment audit can be completed before the end of this municipal year.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising out of this report.

5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

5.1 This report has been prepared by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) who is also the Council's Monitoring Officer and incorporates legal comments.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Ethical governance arrangements are essential to the operation and reputation of the Authority. The proposals contained in this report accord with recommendations of the Audit Commission for an integrated approach to ethical governance.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The training measures outlined in this report are important for ensuring that Members understand and comply with their responsibilities in relation to ethical governance which is key to maintaining effective community leadership and confidence in local democracy.

8. SAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report has no immediate implications for the Council's policy of strategic action for a greener environment.