

Committee: STANDARDS COMMITTEE	Date: 21 April 2009	Classification: UNRESTRICTED	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report Of: Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)		Title: Members Ethical Standards Self Assessment Questionnaire		
Originating Officer: Isabella Freeman		Wards Affected: All		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals to survey Members using an Ethical Standards Self Assessment Questionnaire following recent completion of Member training on the Revised Code of Conduct for Members.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree proposals for the survey of Members detailed in this report and approve the draft Ethical Standards Self Assessment Questionnaire attached as Appendix One.

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. BACKGROUND AND SURVEY PROPOSALS

- 3.1 As part of the ethical framework for local government, the Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct for Members on 11 September 2007. As reported elsewhere on the Committee's agenda an extensive training programme for Members has been completed so that it is now possible to progress an Ethical Standards Self Assessment audit which is included in the Committee's current work programme.
- 3.2 A similar exercise was undertaken in 2005 and it would now be opportune to repeat the survey having regard to the changes in the standards framework (including the introduction of the local assessment of complaints about Member conduct) and changes in membership of the Council that have occurred since 2005. A revised draft Questionnaire has therefore been drafted to take account of these changes which is attached as Appendix One for consideration and approval by the Committee.
- 3.3 The Questionnaire is designed to measure Members understanding of the application of the Code of Conduct and related ethical governance issues. All Members of the Council will be invited to complete the Questionnaire during May/June 2009 and an analysis of the outcome of the survey will be provided to autumn meeting of this Committee.

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 The work to ensure high ethical standards should improve confidence in local democracy and protect the interests and reputation of the Council.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The measures outlined in this report will help to ensure 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.