



Report of: Director of Law and Governance

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Audit Committee	19 September 2017	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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Subject: ANNUAL REPORT ON STANDARDS AND MEMBER CONDUCT

1. Synopsis

In accordance with the Audit Committee Terms of Reference, the Monitoring Officer is required to submit to the committee an annual report concerning standards of member conduct, including a summary of complaints received under the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure and their outcome. The complaints received in the municipal year 2016-17 are detailed below. This report also includes information on member training and development and declarations of interest.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the contents of the report.

3. Details

3.1 Member Training and Development

3.2 Councillors have attended a number of conferences and training courses over the last year, including the LGA Annual Conference. Training has covered Licensing, Treasury Management and Presentation Skills and attendance at a number of subject specific conferences and courses has supported Executive Members to gain a greater understanding of emerging practice and new approaches within their remits.

3.3 A more strategic approach to ensuring that Members make the most of opportunities for development has been established for future years.

- 3.4 Updates on development opportunities that are provided by London Councils and the Local Government Association are regularly circulated to Members and many of these events are either free or subsidised.
- 3.4 Members have been provided with specific briefings on conduct or governance issues. Areas covered have included Voluntary and Community Sector roles and relationships; councillors personal safety, civic emergencies and data protection.
- 3.6 Staff and councillors who routinely login to the councils' network receive a series of pop up compliance messages which give information on a number of areas such as data protection and security, personal data and sharing documents. The number of councillors able to access the network has been significantly increased with the roll out of In-Tune during March 2017.
- 3.7 Financial Declarations**
- 3.8 All Members reviewed, confirmed and where necessary updated, their register of interests, including their financial declarations, in March 2017. The Members Register of Interests is available on the Council's website.
- 3.9 Members were also advised that the question on the financial declarations form relating to licences to occupy land in the borough should include rented garages or parking permits for specific spaces on estates.
- 3.10 The Members interests and any declarations of interest made at meetings, declarations regarding gifts and hospitality and the councillors' attendance record at committee meetings are all available on the Council's website.

Complaints

- 3.12 All complaints under the Members Code of Conduct are referred to the Monitoring Officer (the Director of Law and Governance). Following consideration of the complaint, the Monitoring Officer decides whether it is appropriate to seek an informal resolution. Where there is no informal resolution, the Monitoring Officer may:
- decide not to investigate further;
 - decide that the matter requires investigation.
 - decide to refer the decision as to whether or not there is to be an investigation to the Standards Committee.
- 3.13 No formal complaints have been received against Members during 2016-17 relating to breaches of the Members Code of Conduct, although some issues have been raised which have not reached that stage.

Members involved	Complainant	Topic	Formal complaint	Outcome
1	Members of the public	Various	N	Outside of Monitoring Powers to investigate.
1	Member of the public	Rudeness	N	Awaiting further information
1	Member of the public	Tweet	N	Informal resolution by way of apology

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

Included in Point 3.7 of this report.

4.2 **Legal Implications**

Included in the body of this report.

4.3 **Resident Impact Assessment**

No resident impacts arise directly from this report.

Background papers:

None.

Final Report Clearance

Signed by



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Director of Financial and Asset Management

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Date

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