

Code of Conduct Training 2007/08

Report of the Clerk

For further information about this report please contact Sue Kembrey, Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority, on 01952 383200 or Matt Cumberbatch, Group Solicitor (Standards and Regulatory), on 01952 383255.

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides details of the outcome of the Code of Conduct training, which took place on 19 July 2007, and advises Members of forthcoming training.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the report; and
- b) Decide whether further Code of Conduct training is required for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

3 Background

Training on the new Code of Conduct for Members was provided by way of two identical training seminars, which took place on the afternoon and evening of 19 July 2007. The seminars were hosted by Telford & Wrekin Council at their Civic Offices and were conducted by Peter Keith-Lucas from Bevan Brittan Solicitors, who has presented training attended by Members of the Fire Authority on previous occasions.

4 Attendance

A total of 13 representatives from the Fire Authority attended the training. A more detailed breakdown of those attending is set out below.

- Fire Authority Members - 7
- Independent Members - 1
- Fire Authority Officers - 5



7 out of the 17 Fire Authority Members and 1 of 2 non-elected Independent Members of the Standards Committee have received training on the new Code of Conduct as a result of attending the seminars arranged by Telford & Wrekin Council. Please note that details of attendance were taken from the attendance sheets, which all those attending were asked to sign. If any Member or officer has not signed the attendance sheet, they will not be recorded as having attended the training.

The 10 Fire Authority Members, who did not attend that training were contacted, and 5 confirmed that they had received training in the new Code of Conduct from another authority, of which they are a Member. This leaves 5 Members and 1 non-elected Independent Member of the Standards Committee, who have not attended any recent training.

5 Feedback

All Fire Authority Members, who attended the seminars, were given the opportunity to complete a monitoring form to provide feedback on their views regarding the training. The results from the feedback sheets received (6 in total) are set out below.

Overall ratings

1 = Poor, 2 = Unsatisfactory, 3 = Satisfactory, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Aspect of Training					
Joining Instructions	0	0	3	2	0
Content of the Training	0	0	1	1	4
Quality of Presentation	0	0	0	1	5
Overall, how useful the training was	0	0	1	1	4

6 Future Training

Telford & Wrekin Council will be providing further training in the new Code of Conduct (to be conducted by Peter Keith-Lucas) on 20 November 2007. An invitation has been sent to all Fire Authority Members and to the 2 non-elected Independent Members of the Standards Committee to attend that training (for which there will be a charge to the Fire Authority of £50 per delegate). This training has been offered to all, irrespective of whether or not they attended one of the seminars on 19 July 2007. Furthermore, a letter has been sent to the Leader of each political group within the Fire Authority, asking them to urge those Members, who have not previously attended, to do so.



To date 1 Member and 1 non-elected Independent Member of the Standards Committee, who did not receive the previous training, have indicated that they will attend on 20 November.

In light of these latest developments the Committee is asked to consider whether any further training should be offered to Members.

7 The Code Uncovered

In addition, the Standards Board for England has produced a training DVD. Whilst the subject matter of the DVD relates to a planning issue and is, therefore, outside the normal business of the Fire Authority, it is intended to provide a case study on the use and interpretation of the new Code.

Members are requested to view the DVD at the end of the meeting (see item 11 on the agenda) and asked to consider whether or not a screening of the DVD could be provided for all Members of the Fire Authority in the presence of the Monitoring Officer in order that any questions raised can be addressed.

8 Financial Implications

There are sufficient funds within the Member and officer training budgets to cover the £50 attendance cost for those who wish to attend the training on 20 November 2007.

9 Legal Comment

Training for Members on the new Code of Conduct is not compulsory. It is, however, advisable, particularly given the changes brought about by the new Code recently adopted by the Fire Authority.

10 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have decided that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

11 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.



12 Background Papers

Attendance sheets for the revised Code of Conduct training on 19 July 2007

Monitoring Sheets completed by Fire Authority delegates attending the revised Code of Conduct training

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	*
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment		Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings		Retained	
Environmental		Risk and Insurance	
Financial	*	Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Strategic Planning	
Information Communications and Technology		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*

