
REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2006

Chair: * Councillor Janet Cowan

Councillors: * Branch * Thammaiah
 * Ann Groves * Toms (2)
 * Mrs Joyce Nickolay

Independent Persons: † The Rt Revd Peter Broadbent * Mrs Bijal Shah

* Denotes Member present
 (2) Denotes category of Reserve Member
 † Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS
RECOMMENDATION I - Mandatory Training for Members

The Committee received a recommendation from the Member Development Panel meeting of 7 February 2006, which invited members to consider mandatory training for all Members of Council.

It was noted that, in light of the ever increasing risk of challenge through the Appeal Court, mandatory training would pre-empt some of the difficulties faced. Members suggested that some training be run in-house in order to keep costs to a minimum, or that alternatives such as inter-Borough training be sought. A Member provided as an example the training offered by Brent Council for those involved in Standards Committees. Officers were reminded to ensure that Independent Members were also offered any available training.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That (1) training in the Code of Conduct be mandatory;

(2) training for membership of the Personnel Appeal Panel, Social Services Appeals Panel and the Chief Officers' Employment Panel be mandatory;

(3) all Members of appropriate bodies be required to undertake training regardless of experience, subject to (8) below;

(4) a brief initial training session be provided prior to any inaugural meeting and that this be followed up by a full training session to be held before 30 September 2006, subject to the availability of staff;

(5) training should, where possible, be offered at three or four sessions on at least two different days;

(6) Members be asked to consider whether training should be provided by the best available means, whether this be external providers or officers of the Council;

(7) a record, open to inspection by all Members, be kept of the attendance at all training sessions;

(8) subject to the agreement of the Chair of the Standards Committee, special arrangements for an officer briefing be made where a Member, in exceptional circumstances, is unable to attend any of the training sessions; during the process Group Leaders and Whips be kept informed, the Chair of the Standards Committee agree any special arrangements made and a note be made in the register of attendance that such arrangements were made;

(9) if it be considered during the life of the Council that further updated mandatory training is needed, then the Standards Committee have the power to impose such a requirement;

(10) all training sessions should, wherever possible, be open to attendance by any Councillor, whether or not the Councillor is a Member of the relevant Committee;

(11) an outline training programme be prepared, this programme should be agreed by the Member Development Panel and then recommended to the Standards Committee.