



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>ON:</b>	<b>30 March 2022</b>

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**SUBJECT: Member Training - Update**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update the Committee of the Member Training Programme for 2021/22

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:

- note the update of the Member Training Programme for 2021/22 and in relation to the mandatory training attendance.
- note that the equality and diversity related training & workshop in the Member Training Programme for 2021/22 has been postponed until a date after the May 2022 local elections.
- note that a further report will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting to consider the Member Training Programme for 2022/23.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The Committee at its meeting on 21 July 2021 a Member Training Programme for 2021/22. The programme included items that this Committee considered mandatory and areas that the committee feel it necessary for members to be aware of in carrying out their duties as a Councillor.

The Committee agreed the continuation for all Members to undertake the mandatory e-learning packages: Civil Contingencies for Elected Members, DOJO Cyber Security Awareness and Information Governance for Elected Members.

The Committee also approved for Equality & Diversity Training be arranged 'in person' during the course of this municipal year, as restrictions were lifted. The Committee also endorsed a message to all members to take the opportunity to review the LGA elected member course portfolio accessible direct to them via the MeLearning Portal, and access the training and development which they consider would best assist their continued effectiveness as a councillor.

Finally, the Committee also approved an outline local programme of additional 'online' and 'in person' training events as set out in the Appendix to this report to support elected members of the Borough to fulfil their duties and responsibilities in an effective and safe manner.

The Committee requested reporting of councillor's attendance on training courses provided, particularly the three mandatory courses. The attendance has varied and councillors need to be further encouraged attend, particularly the online courses. In relation to the mandatory most councillors had completed the IG training in 2019/20, but are required to refresh this training. A tailored specific DOJO Cyber Security Awareness course content for Members has been procured for 2022-2023. This is due to be launched in April.

#### **4. RATIONALE**

Members training and development is under the remit of the Standards Committee and the programme is agreed and updated each year. The programme includes items that this Committee has considered as mandatory and areas that the committee felt necessary for members to be aware of in carrying out their duties as a Councillor.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Members are expected to ensure they are regularly updated with key knowledge of main legislation relating to their work as Councillors. These courses assist the delivery of that objective. Attendance at mandatory courses whilst not being a legal requirement is seen as good practice.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Member training and development is necessary for providing them with key knowledge, and enabling them to undertake their public roles. The Council should therefore put in place adequate provision for training and development for its members (particularly the newly elected members), and provide support and encouragement to members to undertake the training provided.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

The Committee hold a role in member training and development and will be considering the Member Training programme for 2022/23. Chief Officers will also be consulted for topics of training relating to their operational areas.

#### **Chief Officer/Member**

Contact Officer: Asad Laher, Strategic Head of Service – Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Background Papers: None