



REPORT OF:	The Monitoring Officer
TO:	Standards Committee
ON:	29 March 2023

SUBJECT: Member Training - Update

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update the Committee of the Member Training Programme for 2022/23

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- note the update of the Member Training Programme for 2022/23 and in relation to the mandatory training attendance and provide feedback and suggestions.
- note that a further report will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting to consider the Member Training Programme for 2023/24.

3. BACKGROUND

The Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2022 considered the Member Training Programme for 2022/23. The programme included items that this Committee considered mandatory and areas that the committee considered 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. 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 as a councillor.

The Committee requested reporting of councillor's attendance on training courses provided, particularly the DOJO Cyber Security Awareness and Information

Governance for Elected Members mandatory courses. The attendance levels were varied and councillors need to be further encouraged attend, particularly the online courses. In relation to the mandatory DOJO Cyber Security Awareness and Information Governance for Elected Members mandatory courses, IG officers arranged special training sessions (via MS Teams) for those councillors who were unable to undertake their training via the MeLearning portal. Two in-person sessions on the important topic of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion were held in February 2023 as well as an in-person session in October 2022 in relation to the Council's New Values & Behaviours, hosted by the Chief Executive.

For the new councillors elected in May 2022, a special in-person induction session was arranged, with introductions from Directors and their service areas.

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 2023/24. Chief Officers will also be consulted for topics of training relating to their operational areas.

Chief Officer/Member

Contact Officer: Asad Laher, Deputy Director – Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Date: 20th March 2023

Background Papers: None