



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTING AS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2020
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER SIMON COPLEY
TITLE OF REPORT:	STANDARDS TRAINING
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks the support of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as the Corporate Governance Standards Committee for a proposal for the provision of further mandatory training on standards for all councillors.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 To support the proposal outlined in this report for the provision of further mandatory training on standards for all councillors.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To discharge the Committee's function detailed in paragraph 5.1 and support the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct reduces the likelihood of complaints and challenge to decisions, with its associated financial, legal and reputational consequences.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The terms of reference, in the Constitution, for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as the Corporate Governance Standards Committee states that one of its functions is:

“Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors...on matters relating to the

Members' Code of Conduct.”

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 During 2019 there have been a number of complaints, issues and concerns raised under the Members' Code of Conduct. In the light of this situation and as part of the Council's work to promote and maintain high standards, it is proposed to arrange some further mandatory training on standards for all councillors.
- 6.2 It is proposed that the training primarily focuses on behaviours and values required under the Members' Code of Conduct and Member / Officer relations, as these are where issues have arisen in the past. An outline specification for two sessions is attached as Appendix A.
- 6.3 At national level a new Model Code of Conduct is being produced, which will be considered by local authorities for adoption in due course. The training can also provide an update on progress with this. As the underlying behaviours and values are not proposed to change significantly, the training however allows the Committee to do something proactive to deal with the issues identified, without needing to wait for the work on the Model Code to be completed.
- 6.4 It is proposed that the arrangements for the training include an option for councillors who are unable to participate at the agreed dates and times to view the sessions afterwards and that all such councillors are required to do this to ensure that everyone benefits from the training.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
There is a budget allocated for Member learning and development and the costs of standards training will be met from there.
 - b) Legal
There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
There are no significant other implications arising from this report. Health and safety implications will be considered when the format and arrangements for the training are finalised.

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Background Papers:

The Constitution

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

www.ryedale.gov.uk