

# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### Councillor Training Strategy – Ethical and Governance Matters

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members of the Council; for assisting Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct and for promoting high ethical standards within Parish Councils. Within its terms of reference the Standards Committee can also undertake any action that improves, promotes, safeguards and facilitates the highest standard of probity and ethical conduct by the Council, its Members and Officers and advise the Council on ethical aspects of good governance standards for public life.
- 1.2 Members of the Standards Committee may also be required to participate directly in the process of dealing with allegations that a Member has breached the Code of Conduct if a Hearing Panel of the Committee is established following an investigation into an alleged breach of the Code.
- 1.3 It is important that individual Members of the Standards Committee are themselves adequately trained in ethical and governance matters to enable them to act as effective Members of the Committee.
- 1.4 Training in ethical and governance matters is a key aspect of Councillor Development for all 45 Members of Northampton Borough Council. **Where relevant, Parish Councillors will be invited to attend training.**

#### 2 Key Objectives of the Councillor Training Strategy – Ethical and Governance Matters

- To identify and provide the training required by Members of the Standards Committee on ethical and governance matters.
- To raise the profile of the Council's ethics and governance agenda and the work of the Standards Committee.
- To improve understanding amongst Members about ethical and governance matters and their responsibilities, to contribute to the strengthening of the Council's overall governance framework.

#### 3 Outline Training Programme for the Municipal year 2017/2018

- 3.1 The following ethical and governance training and development topics for Councillors have been identified:

- Members' Code of Conduct (including consideration of the Nolan 'principles of public life') and the Arrangements for investigating alleged breaches of the Code
- Disclosure and Registration of Interests
- Gifts and Hospitality
- Organisational Ethics and Culture
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Framework including Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure
- Decision Making
- The CIPFA International Framework - Good Governance in the Public Sector
- Such other ethical or governance matters identified by the Council's Monitoring Officer [in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee] from time to time.

3.2 Some of the above topics could be delivered together in one Member Development session.

3.3 It is envisaged that some of the training topics will be delivered by internal Officers of the Council and others will be delivered by external training providers.

#### **4 Monitoring**

4.1 Monitoring of the effectiveness of the Councillor Training – Ethical and Governance Matters will take place by form of feedback questionnaires. The findings from the questionnaires will be analysed.

#### **5 Review**

5.1 Councillor Training Strategy – Ethical and Governance Matters will be reviewed annually.

5.2 Councillor Training – Ethical and Governance Matters will be a key component of the Councillor Induction Programme