



City of Westminster Committee Report

Meeting:	Standards Committee
Date:	1 July 2021
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Update on Code of Conduct Training for Members
Wards Affected:	All
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Standards Committee has, as part of its terms of reference, the role of advising, training or arranging to train Members and Co-opted Members on matters relating to the City Council's Code of Conduct for Members.
- 1.2 This report is to note the attendance of Members at the various Code of Conduct sessions which have been delivered since October 2018.
- 1.3 The report also provides, as an appendix, a list of all training provided by Members across wider topics which support Members to carry out their roles and functions.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked for feedback on how attendance at Code of Conduct sessions could be improved considering the figures provided in section 4.
- 2.2 As the wider programme does not come under the Committee's remit, information on this is provided only as a comparison of attendance at other sessions, to aid discussion.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Code of Conduct training is delivered as part of the wider Member Development Programme, which in its current format, has been in place since the May 2018 elections, and sits under the Leader's portfolio. It consists of monthly sessions for Members which cover practical, skills based and policy topics.
- 3.2 Sessions are advertised in advance via emails to Members and also in the weekly Members' Bulletin, which also contains information on external training which Members can access.

4. Attendance

- 4.1 The last information provided to the Committee was in March 2020 and included figures for attendance at sessions in 2018 and 2019.
- 4.2 The table below indicates attendance at the Code of Conduct, or ethical governance related topics.

Session	Date	Attendance
Code of Conduct (1)	30 October 2019	39
Code of Conduct (2)	18 November 2019	7
Diversity training (as part of Code of Conduct) *	29 October 2020	27
Code of Conduct *	3 June 2021	27

* indicates online session

- 4.3 As can be seen from the table the attendance at the most recent Code of Conduct refresh session fell below the attendance in 2019. In general, attendance since sessions were moved online in March 2020 has increased by 8%, but this is not the case for the Code of Conduct sessions.
- 4.4 This decline in attendance could be down to several reasons; the sessions not being prioritised in diaries; sessions not being advertised in the places that Members would see them or Members not aware that it is recommended that a refresher session should be attended on an annual basis.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the
Background Papers please contact:**

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendices - Sessions and attendance from October 2018 – June 2021