

ITEM NO: 6

REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 September 2012
REPORT OF:	Sandra Stewart - Borough Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
SUBJECT MATTER:	UNDERSTANDING THE NEW LOCAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK - A WORKSHOP FOR INDEPENDENT PERSONS
REPORT SUMMARY:	<p>Training opportunity being offered by Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd designed to be an in-depth exploration of the new role as well as a chance for the Independent Persons and those who work with them to exchange ideas and build networks with their colleagues in the region. The full list of dates confirmed so far are:</p> <p>Basingstoke – 27 September</p> <p>Lincoln – 18 October</p> <p>Burnley - 23 October</p> <p>Norwich – 26 October</p> <p>Warwick – 6 November</p> <p>Places at all these events cost £95 + VAT per delegate.</p> <p>Further details or to book a place at any of these events can be found at: http://www.hoeyainscough.co.uk/Events.html</p> <p>Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd was set up in April 2012 to provide training and support to local government members and officers in ensuring effective local governance. Paul Hoey, Co-Director was for 10 years from its inception the director in charge of strategy and stakeholder relations at Standards for England. He has been the acknowledged national expert on the local government standards framework for the last decade and has worked with individual authorities and groupings of authorities on implementation and development of local standards arrangements as well as advising Standards for England, the Government and key national regulators and representative bodies on standards issues. He has given expert evidence to both the Parliamentary Select Committee and Committee on Standards in Public Life enquiries into local government standards. Natalie Ainscough, Co-Director was at nearly 6 years at Standards for England in a key policy role developing and implementing an evolving local standards framework where she led a multi-disciplinary team in the development of statutory guidance.</p>
RECOMMENDATION(S)	An opportunity for Independent Persons to access training on the new requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the duties created thereafter.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	The authority will meet any training fees and any travel costs

(Authorised by Borough Treasurer) of attending will be met by the Independent Person.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: There are none arising from this report.

(Authorised by Borough Solicitor)

RISK MANAGEMENT: Independent Persons need to be suitably trained and qualified in order that consistency of approach is taken in respect of setting and advising on local ethical and standard issues.

LINKS TO COMMUNITY PLAN: Support the current arrangements for ethical and corporate governance of the Authority to ensure that the public can have confidence in accountability of elected Members and the maintenance of high ethical standards.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: **NON-CONFIDENTIAL**
This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS: **Appendix 6A – training flyer**
Any background papers or further information can be obtained from the Council's Borough Solicitor and statutory Monitoring Officer by contacting 0161-342-3028 or by e-mail Sandra.Stewart@tameside.gov.uk

Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd presents

Understanding the new local standards framework - a workshop for Independent Persons

Burnley Town Hall. Tuesday 23 October 2012

Background

It has always been vital to the reputation of all in public life to be able to demonstrate the importance of high standards.

The Localism Act 2011 is transforming the way councils deal with standards cases. There is no longer a national framework, a national source of guidance and good practice or consistent procedures across the country. Instead there are opportunities for each council to develop an approach that suits their own needs and those of their local community. However, as part of those arrangements, councils must appoint at least one 'independent person' to support their work

This half-day workshop is an opportunity for those independent persons across the North West and Yorkshire to come together to share their early experiences and discuss some of the opportunities and challenges presented by the new framework as they put their new local arrangements in place.

Who should attend?

This event would particularly benefit the local independent persons which the Localism Act requires each council to have. It will also be of benefit to those councillors and officers who will be involved in day-to-day running of the local standards framework alongside the independent persons.

Content

The event will cover all aspects of the new arrangements, such as:

- The role of the new independent – what does their new role entail and how does it differ from the old arrangements?
Do they need to be less of a judge and more of a political influencer?
- Exploring the key principles behind Codes of Conduct and looking at what can go wrong
- Handling allegations - how can the Independent Person help the monitoring officer to make the local process work well?

Presenters

The training will be led by **Paul Hoey of Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd**. Hoey Ainscough Associates are working with individual local authorities and national bodies to promote effective local governance.

Before setting up the company he spent over ten years as the director in charge of strategy and stakeholder relations at Standards for England.

He has been the acknowledged national expert on the local government standards framework for the last decade and has worked with national organisations, individual authorities and groupings of authorities on implementation and development of both the old and new local standards arrangements as well as advising Standards for England, the Government and key national regulators and representative bodies on standards issues. He has given expert evidence to both the Parliamentary Select Committee and Committee on Standards in Public Life enquiries into local government standards.

He will be joined by his co-director **Natalie Ainscough** who spent nearly 6 years at Standards for England where she led a multi-disciplinary team in the development of statutory guidance on local standards arrangements. She also developed and implemented entity risk management systems on behalf of Standards for England designed to identify, assess and prioritise local risks to an authority's governance from standards issues.

Paul and Natalie will be supported by an experienced independent person who will be able to offer their own perspective on the role.

Venue, cost and timing

The event will be hosted by Burnley Borough Council and will run from 14.00 to 17.00 on Tuesday 23 October. The cost per delegate will be £95 (+ VAT)

Booking arrangements

For further details and a booking form please visit www.hoeyainscough.co.uk