

Overview of Member Training sessions (2023-24 and 2024-25).

During 2023-24 there were 19 training sessions, 2 of these were Mandatory training sessions, 11 were 'Other' training sessions which were requested by Councillors or Officers due to projects or tasks occurring in the borough, and 6 were briefing sessions to give Members a steer or guidance on decisions or events.

During 2024-25 there were 24 training sessions, 3 of these were Mandatory training sessions, 15 were 'Other' training sessions which were requested by Councillors or Officers due to projects or tasks occurring in the borough and 6 were briefing sessions to give Members a steer or guidance on decisions or events.

Please see table below:

| Year | Mandatory sessions | Other training sessions | Briefing sessions | Total number of sessions |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2023-2024 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 19 |
| 2024-2025 | 3 | 15 | 6 | 24 |
| Total | 5 | 26 | 12 | 43 |

In comparing the number of trained members on Committees with those that require mandatory training, the table below shows the percentage of Councillors in each political group that can sit on either Planning or Licensing Committee.

Please note the Standards training is excluded as it is only mandatory required for standards sub-hearings.

| Political Group | Planning Committee seats | No. of Cllrs Trained on Planning | % of Group Trained to sit on Planning Committee | | Licensing Committee Seats | No. of Cllrs Trained on Licensing | % of Group Trained to sit on Licensing Committee |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Conservative | 4 | 8 | 80% | | 4 | 7 | 70% |
| Greens | 1 | 3 | 100% | | 1 | 2 | 67% |
| Independent | 0 | 0 | 0% | | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Labour | 5 | 14 | 93% | | 5 | 7 | 47% |
| Liberal Democrats | 2 | 4 | 80% | | 1 | 2 | 40% |
| SIA | 3 | 6 | 75% | | 2 | 3 | 38% |
| Reform UK | 2 | 5 | 100% | | 2 | 4 | 80% |

For both Planning and Licensing Committees there are sufficiently trained Members from all political groups for those political groups that are entitled to the seat.

The tables below provide a more detailed summary of the attendance at the training sessions held during both periods, broken down by each political group.

Please note that for some training sessions a full attendance list is not held, so those sessions have been excluded from these statistics. Please also note that some Members might have watched recordings of training sessions on the Members Teams Channel and it is not currently possible to gather that information.

It is important to consider group size when reviewing the attendance figures, for example, the Labour group shows a significantly higher number of Members at training sessions, because they are the largest political group, and therefore have more Members available to attend, whilst the Independent Member has a 100% training record on Licensing because he is the only Independent Member and has attended licensing training.

All groups show good attendance at training sessions in relation to their overall size.

Comparison between attendance at different training sessions during 2023-24 and 2024-25

| Political Group | Total Mandatory Training 23-24 | Total Mandatory Training 24-25 | Total 'Other' Training 23-24 | Total 'Other' Training 24-25 | Total Briefing Sessions 23-24 | Total Briefing Sessions 24-25 | Total |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Conservative | 6 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 37 |
| Greens | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 20 |
| Independent | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Labour | 9 | 15 | 48 | 27 | 26 | 29 | 154 |
| Liberal Democrats | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 16 |
| SIA | 7 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 52 |
| Reform UK | | 8 | | 2 | | 6 | 16 |
| Total | 30 | 40 | 79 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 300 |

Key:

Mandatory Training: Planning, Licensing and Standards.

'Other': training sessions requested by Councillors or Officers due to certain projects or tasks occurring in the borough.

Briefing: held to give Members steer or guidance on decisions or events.

Number of Members who attended training sessions held during 2023-24 broken down by Political group

| Political Group | 5 Year Housing Land Supply Planning Briefing | Audit Committee training | Chairing Skills Workshop | Community Safety briefing | Housing and Health Committee training | Information Governance training | Licensing Training | Member Finance Briefing | Member Officer Protocol Training | New waste contract Briefing | Understanding Conditions | Sound reasons for decision-making | Safeguarding Children | Planning Committee training | Understanding and participating in Planning Appeal Process | Waste and Street Cleansing current service Briefing | Total Training attended by Party |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Conservative | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 23 |
| Greens | 2 | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | 3 | | 1 | 13 |
| Independent | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Labour | 5 | 5 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 83 |
| Liberal Democrats | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 8 |
| SIA | 3 | | 4 | | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 29 |
| Total | 14 | 6 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 20 | 4 | 10 | 159 |

Attendance at all the training sessions held during 2024-25 broken down by Political Group

| Political Group | All Member Briefing - Local Government Boundary Review | First Aid & Defib training session | Licensing Committee Training | Member Briefing Environment Agency - New predicted erosion maps | MenTalk Briefing | Planning Etesize - Bolstering Responses to Outline Applications | Planning Etesize - Minor Material Amendments | Planning Etesize - Section 106 | Planning Etesize - Your role as a ward member | Planning Committee training | Standards Training | Total |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Conservative | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 14 |
| Greens | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 7 |
| Independent | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Labour | 9 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 71 |
| Liberal Democrats | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| SIA | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 23 |
| Reform UK | | | 3 | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 1 | 16 |
| Total | 15 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 16 | 10 | 8 | 20 | 11 | 20 | 11 | 141 |

Overview of External training sessions held during 2023-2025

| Type of External Training | Date of training | Number of attendees | Total cost of training |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Chairing Skills for Members | 16/06/2023 | 19 | £1,546.00 |
| Standards Training | 24/06/2024 | 11 | £1,517.07 |
| Neurodiversity Workshop | 25/09/2024 | Information not held | £850.00 |
| Questioning, scrutiny and critical thinking, Chairing skills workshops x4 | 21/05/25 & 03/06/25 | 24 | £3,316.00 |