

26/27/079 To consider engaging the internal auditor, Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd to deliver bespoke training to Councillors and key staff on roles and responsibilities and code of conduct



Sturminster Newton Town Council

Report Subject: Bespoke Councillor Training

Report Author: Kate Squire, Town Clerk

Report Date: 25 June 2026

Introduction

One of the outstanding recommendations from the 2025/26 internal audit is that councillors undertake training on roles and responsibilities and the Code of Conduct.

The Council recently appointed Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd to carry out the internal audit. Mulberry also specialises in training, so I have enquired whether it would be possible to arrange group training with them. They have confirmed that Andy Beams, who will be conducting the internal audit, also provides training on this topic.

Andy can offer face-to-face or remote training for a fee of £450 plus VAT and any travel expenses. This would be for a three-hour session to allow time for questions. Evening sessions are available if needed.

Recommendation

I recommend that the Council considers booking the training in line with the internal audit recommendation. I have an onboarding session with Andy regarding the internal audit on Thursday 2 July 2026 and can check availability then. If Council agrees to proceed with the training, members are asked to consider whether this should be held in the evening or during the day, as it is important that all, or as many members as possible, attend.

I also recommend that key members of staff attend.