

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING - UPDATE 13th September 2007

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on Code of Conduct training undertaken since the Committee's last meeting.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the report be noted, and that Members consider whether they wish to make any recommendations on the provision of future training.

1.0 Report

- 1.1 At the last meeting of the Committee, it was reported that 56 members of the City Council had attended training on the Code of Conduct. Since then, the remaining four Members have all attended a training session.
- 1.2 The Monitoring Officer was invited to attend a meeting of Thurnham Parish Council on the 16th July 2007 to speak to the parish council about the revised Code of Conduct and to answer councillors' questions.
- 1.3 The Monitoring Officer also attended a meeting of the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils on the 23rd July 2007 to seek views on appropriate training for parish clerks and parish councillors. Whilst those present felt that training should be primarily for parish clerks, they did not feel that it should be particularly directed at Chairmen, but should rather be open to all parish councillors. Following that meeting, the Monitoring Officer arranged two sessions of training and sent invitations to all parish clerks in the Lancaster district. The invitation to attend was extended to the clerk and all parish councillors.
- 1.4 The first session took place on the evening of the 30th August. It was attended by seven clerks and eight councillors, representing eleven parish councils.
- 1.5 The session was repeated on the afternoon of the 3rd September, when five clerks and seven councillors attended, representing nine parish councils.

1.6 In total, representatives of sixteen of the thirty parish councils in the district have attended the training.

2.0 Conclusion

2.1 It has proved very difficult to encourage the parish councils to be represented at the training sessions.

2.2 Members are asked to note the report, and consider whether they wish to make any recommendations for future training.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report. It is intended that any future training would be undertaken internally by the Monitoring Officer.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted on the proposed amendments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as adviser to the Standards Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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