

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>30, SEPTEMBER, 2013.</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>TO PRESENT A REPORT ON THE TRAINING GIVEN ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND ON THE TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMING YEAR.</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>DILYS PHILLIPS, MONITORING OFFICER.</b>

1. At its meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 the Committee decided as follows :-
  - "(a) To give priority to providing training on the Code of Conduct to the 11 county councillors who did not attend the training offered as part of the induction procedure following the May 2012 elections.*
  - (b) To offer an annual refresher session to all county councillors, looking at different ways of providing the training, e.g. area committees.*
  - (c) To offer specific sessions to Town and Community Council Clerks and monitor how the training with One Voice Wales proceeds.*
  - (ch) To offer a tailored session for members of the Standards Committee.*
  - (d) That various and more innovative methods of introducing training in general is needed.*
  - (dd) To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities to include a condition in the code stating that every councillor has to receive training on the Code of Conduct."*
  
2. As part of its work programme the Committee decided to receive an annual report on the training offered on the Code of Conduct and other standard matters together with the arrangements made for the year to come. That is the purpose of this report.
  
3. I report against the Committee's decisions in January:-
  - (a) Priority to provide training for the 11 county councillors who had not attended the induction training in May, 2012. A session on propriety matters which concentrated on dealing with the principles of the Code of Conduct was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2013. 31 Council members attended including two new members who had not received formal training on the Code of Conduct before. I have had an individual discussion on the contents of the Code of Conduct with one other new member. This means that by now all members have received training on the Code of Conduct although the date on which four of them received training goes back to the Council's last term (2008-12).

- (b) The offer of an annual refresher session to all county councillors.  
As the last session was held in July of this year, I will be time-  
tabling the next refresher training for the summer of 2014.
- (c) To offer specific training sessions for Town and Community  
Council Clerks. I have contacted the Society of Local Council  
Clerks and in co-operation with the Society I have arranged  
specific training sessions for Town and Community Council  
Clerks at the beginning of October. As well as Code of Conduct  
matters the sessions will include matters dealing with the register  
of personal interests, the protocol and the registering of gifts and  
hospitality, the procedure for dispensations and matters of  
confidentiality and exclusion of the public and press. The  
invitations have been sent out by Katherine Owen, Clerk to the  
Caernarfon Town Council on behalf of the Society of Local  
Council Clerks. I will be reporting back at the meeting of the  
Committee on the number that have registered to attend.
- (ch) Offer of a session which has been tailored for Standard Committee  
members. Five members of the Committee went to the All Wales  
Standards Conference held in Llandudno on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.  
Apart from this there has been no other specific session arranged  
for Committee members, but a presentation on the Committee's  
work was given at its first meeting in July, 2012. I suggest that a  
period, of say, one hour at the beginning of the next meeting in  
January be allocated for the development of the Committee, and I  
ask for suggestions on the type of session that the members would  
wish to receive.
- (d) The need to consider other means of presenting training.  
An effort was made in the training in July this year to present a  
session that was more interactive and light hearted than the usual  
presentations. A good response was received from the members.  
In the past we have used the material received from the Welsh  
Local Government Association, which included a video and  
power point presentations, and have explored the possibility of  
presenting web-based training. However, a lack of time and  
resources has prevented the development of such training  
specifically for Gwynedd, and it does not seem that there is the  
appetite to develop it nationally. Within the Council, short  
sessions such as surgeries with up to six members at a time have  
proved to be successful to explain quite complex matters and with  
the Committee's consent I am considering experimenting with this  
method of member development for the next refresher sessions.

- (dd) Ask the Minister to include a condition that all councillors must receive training. This was included in the Council's response to the Minister but it does not seem that it is going to be implemented, and that the members training on the Code of Conduct will continue to depend on members' readiness to attend training sessions and on a strong encouragement for them to do so.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

4. The Committee is asked to
- (a) accept the report on training that has been provided and on training plans for the year to come;
  - (b) express an opinion regarding a specific training session to be held at the beginning of January's meeting.