

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Standards Committee: 21st September 2017

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Code of Conduct Training Post 2017 Local Government Elections for Town and Community Councils

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of the Committee of the training that is to be offered to all Members of Town and Community Councils and Clerks.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report be noted.

Reason for the Recommendation

To inform Members of the Standards Committee.

Background

2. The Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee include (in part) "Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct" and "advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, Co-Opted Members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct".

Relevant Issues and Options

3. Following the Local Government elections on 4th May, 2017, training on Code of Conduct matters was provided to newly elected Vale of Glamorgan Councillors on 16th and 18th May, 2017. A total of 44 Vale of Glamorgan Councillors attended the training sessions and the three remaining Members were invited to attend further sessions with the Monitoring Officer, which have also subsequently taken place.
4. At its meeting on 1st June, 2017, the Standards Committee was advised that training for Members of Town and Community Councils in the Vale of Glamorgan would be delivered by the organisation One Voice Wales, the Voice of Community and Town Councils in Wales, and the cost would be met by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
5. Following confirmation with One Voice Wales, the training sessions have now been arranged as follows:

- Tuesday, 17th October, 2017 from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
 - Thursday, 19th October, 2017 from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, 24th October, 2017 from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, 6th November, 2017 from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, 14th November, 2017 from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
6. All Town and Community Councils' Members and Clerks have been invited to attend the sessions and responses are being received and collated.
 7. Following the training sessions a feedback report will be presented to the Standards Committee for consideration.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

8. The cost of each session is £375.00 and is being funded from existing budgets.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

9. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

10. There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

11. There are no crime and disorder implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

12. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Corporate/Service Objectives

13. This report relates to the role of the Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct of Members as detailed in the Council's Constitution and to develop and assist Town and Community Councils' Councillors and Clerks to be compliant with the Code of Conduct.

Policy Framework and Budget

14. This is a matter for decision by the Standards Committee.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

15. This report does not involve consultation with other parties.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

16. None.

Background Papers

Letters to Town and Community Councils' Clerks on 7th August and 31st August, 2017.

Contact Officer

Mrs. Karen Bowen, Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, Tel: 01446 709856

Officers Consulted

None.

Responsible Officer:

Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer