

**TRAINING AND ADVICE
(Report by the Head of Administration)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Standards Committee has a key role in improving and promoting a local government environment which reflects the highest ethical standards. In that context it needs to offer guidance and advice to Town and Parish Councils in Huntingdonshire particularly with regard to compliance with the requirements of the Model Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 This report describes the training activity planned by the Monitoring Officer over the next few weeks.

2. UPCOMING ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 Newly elected Parish Councillors and Co-opted Members have been invited to participate in a session on the ethical framework, standards and the Code of Conduct on Wednesday, 22nd September 2004 at Pathfinder House commencing at 7.30pm. The invitation also has been extended to existing Parish Councillors who would welcome a reminder of the requirements of the model code.
- 2.2 At the request of St Ives Town and Sawtry Parish Councils, a further session will be held for Members of those Councils on Thursday, 30th September 2004 at 7.00pm at Pathfinder House.
- 2.3 The first liaison meeting between the District Council and the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils is to take place on 28th September 2004. The liaison meeting will receive a presentation by the Monitoring Officer on the registration of interests and dispensations.
- 2.4 Members will recall that in February, South Cambridgeshire District Council hosted a training event on the Local Determination Regulations for Members serving on District Council Standards Committees. In view of the success of the day and the need to prepare new Members for Panel hearings, South Cambridgeshire has decided to host a further training day to which Members of the District Council's Standards Committee have been invited to attend. The event, to be led by the Head of Legal Services of South Cambridgeshire, will be held at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council on Monday, 20th September 2004 between 10pm and 4pm.
- 2.5 This event may be timely in that the local government press is indicating that the Regulations, which would enable Councils to investigate serious complaints, could come into effect within the next two months.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members are requested to note arrangements made to fulfil the Committee's obligations in terms of training and advice on issues relating to the local framework and code of conduct and to indicate their interest or otherwise in attending the training event offered by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter to Town and Parish Councils dated 8th July 2004.

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