

TRAINING UPDATE**(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware of the concerted effort made by the Chairman and the Monitoring Officer to offer the opportunity to District, Town and Parish Councillors to participate in training on the new Code of Conduct since its introduction in May.
- 1.2 Whilst the Monitoring Officer and his Colleagues continue to remain available, if approached, to attend individual Town and Parish Council meetings, the formal programme of training which had been arranged has now concluded.
- 1.3 This report summarises the response to the training sessions held on the Code of Conduct since the Summer.

2. TRAINING EVENTS

2.1

Venue/Date	Represented	Numbers Involved
Huntingdon – 24.7.07 Pathfinder House	Barham & Woolley, Buckden, Buckworth, Bluntisham, Colne, Fenstanton, Great Paxton, Little Paxton, St. Neots and Ramsey	18
St. Ives – 5.9.07 Aquarius Room, St Ivo Leisure Centre	Buckworth, Earith, Fenstanton, Holywell- cum-Needlingworth, Hemingford Grey, Ramsey and Wistow	12
St. Neots – 12.9.07 Priory Centre	Barham & Woolley, Buckden, Folksworth & Washingley, Great Gransden, Hail Weston and Yelling	10
Spaldwick School – 3.10.07	Barham & Woolley, Buckworth, Ellington, Spaldwick and Stow Longa	14
Little Paxton – 4.10.07	Little Paxton Parish Council	11
St. Ives – 31.10.07 Town Hall	St. Ives Town Council	7
Huntingdon – 1.11.07 Town Hall	Huntingdon Town Council	13

- 2.2 Arrangements to attend Godmanchester Town Council on 11th October 2007 were cancelled by the Town Clerk because of the possibility of poor attendance. A revised date for the training has now been fixed for 24th January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall at Godmanchester.
- 2.3 Sessions for District Councillors were held on 20th August and 4th, 11th and 26th September. These were timed to precede or succeed scheduled meetings to which Councillors had already been invited. To date, 35 out of a total of 52 District Councillors have attended training. A further session for District Councillors is to be held after the Council meeting on 5th December at the Burgess Hall, St. Ives. The Monitoring Officer has written to both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Group Leaders on the District Council, identified the non-attendees and requested their support in persuading those District Councillors who had yet to do so to attend the training session on the 5th December.

3. CAMBRIDGESHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEES NETWORK

- 3.1 The Chairman and the Democratic Services Manager attended a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Standards Committees network on 29th October 2007 at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The network comprises Standards Committee Chairmen and Monitoring Officer staff from the Cambridgeshire authorities. Whilst attendance was disappointing, the meeting presented an opportunity to compare the experiences/practices of the other Cambridgeshire authorities towards various aspects of ethical standards work, including training for example.
- 3.2 The meeting also discussed the possibility of sharing expertise in mediation and training, the establishment of joint Standards Committees and a merger with the Suffolk Standards Committees' Network.
- 3.3 The next meeting will be held at the end of February 2008. A copy of the Notes of the meeting produced by South Cambridgeshire District Council are available on request.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to note the response to the training activity undertaken by the Monitoring Officer on the new Code of Conduct.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attendance register held on File POL/46 in the Office of the Head of Administration.

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