

TRAINING UPDATE
(Report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance
and Monitoring Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Committee's terms of reference provides that it gives training and advice on matters relating to the Code of Conduct. Members will be aware that the Monitoring Officer had, of late, deferred a formal programme of training for town and parish councillors in expectation that a revision to the Members Code of Conduct would be published in May 2010.
- 1.2 Following recent announcements, it will appear that the publication of a new Code is unlikely and therefore the Monitoring Officer considers it opportune to host a new programme of training for town and parish councils this Autumn.
- 1.3 The Committee may wish to note that all newly elected District Councillors have received code of conduct training either through individual sessions or by attending the new Members induction course on 2nd June 2010.

2. PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAINING

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer continues to offer to attend individual town and parish council meetings and this had tended to be the practice adopted of late. Training for individual parish councils has also been specified by the Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee following consideration of complaints and these cases have involved, for instance, visits to Godmanchester, St. Neots and Hilton.
- 2.2 However, the Monitoring Officer is aware that training for all town and parish councils is overdue and given the absence of any suggested revised code, it is proposed that arrangements be made for a more comprehensive programme to take place in the Autumn.
- 2.3 Experience suggests that locally based area sessions are better attended so it is proposed that new members of town and parish councils be invited to attend one of four venues -

Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon;
Aquarius Room, St. Ivo Leisure Centre, St. Ives;
Priory Centre, St. Neots; and
Amenity Centre, Yaxley.

- 2.4 Attendance is not normally restricted so invitations are also extended to those existing Councillors who would benefit from a refresh of the Code. Members might consider that District Councillors local to the venues also should be invited to take the opportunity of an update session.

3. PROPOSED PROGRAMME

- 3.1 It is suggested that the session should last 90 minutes and comprise -
- ◆ a power point presentation by the Monitoring Officer - 30 minutes;
 - ◆ showing of the Standards for England DVD "The Code Uncovered" - 30 minutes;
 - ◆ review of two/three case summaries in smaller groups - 15 minutes;
 - ◆ an opportunity for questions - 15 minutes.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to consider the proposed approach to training this Autumn.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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