
Meeting: Standards Committee
Date: 6 November 2009
Subject: Standards Training for Central Bedfordshire Council and Town/Parish Council Members
Report of: Monitoring Officer
Summary: To draw to Members' attention the training delivered to Central Bedfordshire Members and Town and Parish Councils and feedback received.

Contact Officer: Mrs Barbara Morris, Assistant Director Legal & Democratic/Monitoring Officer
Tel: 01462 611028

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Non-executive

Reason for urgency (if appropriate) N/A

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Contributes to all Council priorities to ensure good governance

Financial:

N/A

Legal:

To ensure that continued training and development is offered to ensure high ethical standards are maintained in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Risk Management:

N/A

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

N/A

Equalities/Human Rights:

None

Community Development/Safety:

N/A

Sustainability:

N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee note the training delivered and feedback received.

Training Provided

1. Members were aware from previous reports to Standards Committee that training was to be delivered following the creation of the new Unitary Council and the election in respect of ethics and standards.
2. Training for Central Bedfordshire Members was delivered as follows:-

16 June 2009	How the Authority operates, including Code of Conduct
29 June 2009	Code of Conduct training
1 July 2009	Standards Committees and Hearings
3. Feedback from these training sessions is attached at Appendix "A" to the report.
4. Further, three Town and Parish Council training sessions were held on 14, 20 and 27 July 2009. Attached at Appendix "B" to this report is a summary of the feedback received from those attending the training. The sessions were supported by the Chairman of Standards Committee, Mr Keith Ford, on 14 and 20 July 2009 and by the Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, Ms Deborah Maggs, on 27 July 2009.
5. All training sessions held were well received and gave positive feedback.

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

Standards – Code of Conduct – 29 June 2009

Feedback

- Handout excellent
- Good video

Most Useful?

- The whole session
- Everything Shown

Standards and Ethics - Filters and Hearings - 1 July 2009

Feedback

Most Useful?

- All
- Updated Handouts

Appendix "B"

Central Bedfordshire Council Course Assessment Form

Training Event: **Town and Parish Council Code of Conduct Training**

Date: **14, 20 and 27 July 2009**

Trainer(s): **Barbara Morris**

Overall Summary

1. Presentation	excellent	23	23	3	0	0	poor
2. Course Leader's Style	excellent	25	21	3	0	0	poor
3. Course Content	interesting	23	18	6	2	0	dull
4. Course Material	excellent	22	17	6	0	0	poor
5. Course Objectives	met	27	16	7	0	0	not met
6. My Objectives	met	23	18	7	0	0	not met
7. Course Duration	too long	5	12	31	1	0	too short
8. Recommend Course	would	22	17	10	0	0	would not

Did you find course helpful? Give details

- Yes
- Very good, very useful
- Useful lost of information
- It gave an overview of the Standards procedures and code of practice
- Yes as a new councillor I got the impression we were expected to know more – maybe a separate session would have been better
- Extremely concise and informative
- Extremely
- Clear, concise, questions fully answered, a productive afternoon
- Yes – an excellent style of presentation easy to understand
- It was very good to refresh my understanding of this subject

- Yes good to have the opportunity to discuss problem issues with someone qualified to answer
- Good overview and well presented clear and to the point. Indicated clearly to possible pitfalls
- Yes and reinforced my understanding
- Good to revisit the conduct rules
- Yes it refreshed me of the things that I had been lectured to on another occasion
- Clarified some areas I wasn't sure about
- Definitely helped with the newer information and changes to the Code
- A good reminder
- Very comprehensive
- The style of Barbara's presenting kept me (the listener) engaged. The examples of disputes also helped understand the information points
- Yes for comparative purposes as I was a former South beds PC Standards Committee member for 3 years
- Yes as an update
- Good refresher
- Good to have updates regularly to appreciate any changes in procedures
- Very interesting, well presented, clear and friendly
- I thought giving details of the types of complaints useful
- As a new member it was very clear as where we stand
- Yes firstly explain Cllrs duties under Code of Conduct then outline and detail process of disciplinary action. Real examples of action taken against members and sanctions available
- Good to have a refresher course
- Clarified content of subject

Was there a part of the course that you did not find helpful? Give details

- Didn't really need the workshop, though good fun

Is there anything else you would like to have been covered on the course? Give details

- All covered well
- Recent changes to the code of conduct
- No think it was comprehensive
- Examples of breaches perhaps could have been dealt with in depth – particularly useful as I am a new member

Do you have any other comments?

- Would have preferred running with more examples, rather than theory. Code of conduct is dull subject and very wide – hence plan for more practical examples (as a Parish Council we have no first hand experience).
- Well done. Thank you
- Just a few more minutes (say 15) for general questions
- Recommended for Town and Parish Councils
- Very interesting and helpful thank you
- Keep everything very very simple for PCs
- Found it useful being very simple in presentation

- It is a pity that more people had not taken the interest to attend this important matter in public life
- Would like to see may be annual or bi-annual update session
- Prior knowledge was useful
- Made a heavy topic somewhat interesting
- Good course very informative
- Barbara was excellent, very knowledgeable and involved members. Great presentation style