

Report to	Standards committee
Date of meeting	13 th September 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Report author	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Title	Code of Conduct Training – Overview of delivery

1. What is the report about?

1.1. The report is about the delivery of Code of Conduct Training for elected and co-opted members of the County Council and City, Town and Community Councils within Denbighshire.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. To provide Committee with details of the training that has been delivered thus far since the last local government elections in May 2022 and outline plans for future delivery.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the Committee notes and comments upon the content of the report, and endorses the proposed approach for the future delivery of training.

4. Report details

4.1. The attached Appendix 1 sets out the dates and attendance levels of the Code of Conduct training events that have been held since the last local government elections in May 2022.

- 4.2. Members will see from Appendix 1 that while the attendance of County Councillors has been excellent, there were disappointing levels of attendance at the various events held for City, Town and Community Councils.
- 4.3. This does not mean that members of City, Town and Community Councils have not been trained. Many councils are members of One Voice Wales who offer excellent training opportunities and they may well have availed themselves if these services.
- 4.4. The Monitoring Officer has, however, received approaches from some City, Town and Community Councils for training events for their members and they have been informed that dates will be arranged this Autumn for further training sessions.
- 4.5. If the dates that are offered for general attendance do not suit those individual councils then arrangements will be made to provide specific dates for them.
- 4.6. The Monitoring Officer will also be offering a date(s) to clerks for them to attend training specifically for them. Clerks are often the first line of advice and guidance for members of local councils and it may be considered beneficial to them to receive training which looks at the Code from the perspective of an adviser. They may also feel better able to ask questions or share experiences without their members being present. This may be of particular benefit to relatively inexperienced clerks.
- 4.7. Details of the dates to be offered will be presented at the meeting of the Committee.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1. The report has no direct impact upon the Corporate plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1. There are no additional direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. There have been no consultations in respect of this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Members require appropriate training to be able to fulfil their responsibilities and the costs of delivering the training is met from existing budgets.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There is a risk that a good deal of officer time is invested in the provision of training which does not result in high levels of attendance. This is outweighed, however, by the risk that a lack of training leads to inadvertent serious breaches of the Code of Conduct.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. s54 Local Government Act 2000