

Agenda Item no:

REPORT TO: Standards Committee
REPORT BY: Deputy Monitoring Officer
DATE: 11th January 2013
SUBJECT: Code of Conduct Training 2012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an overview of the Code of Conduct training delivered by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer following the May 2012 elections.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The role of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Members and to assist them to keep to the Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 The Standards Committee has placed much emphasis on the provision of a comprehensive, accessible programme of training on the Code of Conduct and Members have supported the 2012 schedule which has been rolled out by the Monitoring Officer at a number of venues, in the day and the evening, across the County.
- 2.3 This report provides a review of the attendance levels at County and at Town & Community level. Members should note that a significant number of our County Councillors are also Town and Community Members and will have been captured during the County Council training. Additionally, some Members have attended both County and the Community training the Monitoring Officer has offered. Following the amendments to the County Councillor's Code of Conduct, making attendance at code training during a term of office mandatory at least once, this has resulted in 45 out of 47 County Councillors attending a training session equating to almost a 96% attendance rate. Anecdotal discussions by Monitoring Officers in Wales on Code training, suggests this is an excellent success rate.
- 2.4 This review has been helpful to assist the Monitoring Officer in assessing which County Councillors remain untrained, (by Denbighshire County Council), in addition to look at attendance rates across the board with respect to the Town and Community Councils generally.

2.5 Members should also be aware, that One Voice Wales have also delivered a programme of training across Wales for Town and Community Councils and their attendance rates are not included within this report, neither is any training that may have been delivered 'in-house' by the Town and Community Clerks.

2.6 With regard to a comparator of attendance rates in respect of the Town and Community sessions, following the elections in 2008 attendance figures were slightly higher with a total of 80 attendees. For this municipal year the total is 71.

2.7 The review has also been helpful in assessing the gaps in training in respect of co-opted members of education scrutiny committees on the code of conduct.

2.8 The table of attendance rates is attached as Appendix 1.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That Members note the progress that has been made.

3.2 That Members support one further session to be delivered in 2013 to County Council members (co-opted and those not captured) to include a strong message to be sent to those who have not attended at County Council level to take up the offer of conduct training this year, whether by the County Council or elsewhere.

3.3 That Members instruct the Monitoring Officer to write to One Voice Wales in order to ascertain the level of attendance they have achieved in order to inform the Standards Committee which town and community councils may need further assistance.

3.4 That Members consider any other approach with regard to targeting the town and community members, taking into consideration the delivery of training in person by officers is resource intensive.