

Committee :	Standards Committee
Date :	17 January 2011
Title :	Code of Conduct Training
Author :	Monitoring Officer
Action :	To consider options for providing training

Background

1. Training for members of Gwynedd Council and for members and clerks of community councils is included in the Standards Committee's Work Programme.
2. Following previous consideration of the subject by this committee we have been discussing the matter with the Council's Training Unit which arranges training for Gwynedd Council staff and members. Several possible options have been identified as methods of providing training.

Presentation

A presentation could be provided for Gwynedd Council members as part of their training programme.

As far as community/town councils are concerned, six sessions were held across the county in 2008 and these were attended by 126 members representing 36 of the 64 councils. It is felt therefore that a better way should be sought to reach more councils and members.

Training Module

This module, on Gwynedd Council's website, would provide information on the code and would assess the understanding of the subject through a questionnaire at the end. This is already done with council staff and members. We are looking into the possibility of doing the same thing through the website for people not on the council's system.

DVD

Distributing a DVD to councils. This would include a short and succinct presentation on the code of conduct's main points together with scenarios and questions to be discussed. It could be included as an item on the agenda and played at a council meeting. Also, the local Gwynedd Council member could be asked to attend to present the item in order to emphasise its importance. Members who could not attend the meeting could borrow the DVD to watch at home.

Booklet

A small booklet written in clear and simple language explaining the main points of the code. This could be distributed to members and clerks.

Gwynedd Council's Website

Establishing a page on the council's website where councillors, clerks and the public could access information and documents relating to the code of conduct.

Co-operation

The Association of Council Secretaries & Solicitors (ACSeS), which includes all the monitoring officers in Wales are currently considering developing training materials that could be used by authorities across Wales. We are also looking into the possibility of co-operating with One Voice Wales, the body representing Welsh community and town councils. I hope to have further information on these points at the meeting.

Recommendation

3. The Committee is asked to consider the options.