

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>28, JANUARY, 2013.</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>TRAINING.</b>
<b>AWDUR</b>	<b>DILYS PHILLIPS, MONITORING OFFICER.</b>

1. Following the elections in May 2012, training sessions of one and a half hours on the Code of Conduct were offered to members as part of the induction process. 64 members attended including every one but 3 of the new members. The session was based on the material prepared jointly between the Wales Monitoring Officers and the Welsh Local Government Association and approved by the Standards Committee.
2. In connection with Town and Community Councils, there was agreement with One Voice Wales that they would offer training based on the materials prepared jointly with the monitoring officers, and this was done in two locations in Gwynedd. Their programme for 2013 include another three sessions, one in Barmouth on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, one in Pwllheli on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and one in Caernarfon on the 27<sup>th</sup> June.
3. Despite this, the numbers who attend the sessions are small and it has been suggested that it would be more beneficial to offer the training to clerks. I have contacted the Society of Local Council Clerks to discuss this proposal.
4. This Committee was given a brief introduction to its work at its first meeting in July 2012, but no detailed training has been presented, particularly for new members of the committee.
5. It is considered that the following options are available :
  - (a) Offering a refresher session, say once a year to members of the County Council.
  - (b) Offering specific sessions for Clerks of Town and Community Councils.
  - (c) Offering a tailored session for members of the Standards Committee.
  - (ch) Offering a series of sessions for members of Town and Community Councils.
  - (d) Offering occasional informal drop-in sessions in various locations for whichever audience wishes to attend.

6. **CONSIDERATIONS.**

A number of training events have been offered, or are already on offer. Traditionally it has proved difficult to attract people to training on the Code of Conduct and the County Councillors tend to come and ask relevant officers when they have a question. Despite this, the offer of training is one of the matters that the Ombudsman considers every time he investigates a complaint regarding the Code of Conduct and there is an expectation that training will be available.

7. **RECOMMENDATION.**

The Committee is asked to consider the above matters and to give direction on drawing up a training programme on the Code of Conduct.