

TRAINING ON THE NEW CODE AND LOCAL ASSESSMENTS

Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider training for committee members jointly with committee members from Worcestershire or Shropshire County Councils.
2. To consider training on the new code for Herefordshire council members and parish and town council members within Herefordshire.

Financial Implications

3. Officers time and Chairman's time in developing an appropriate strategy and attending appropriate training where possible.

Background

4. As committee members are aware the committee is tasked with the responsibility of training parish council members in relation to ethical standards and the Code of Conduct. A training event took place with the support of the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) on the 25th day of October 2007. There was a significant turnout from the parishes. The CD entitled "The Code of Conduct" issued by the Standards Board together with support from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services clarifying some issues was presented to that meeting. Whilst there was a significant turnout there is still further work to be done.
5. Herefordshire Council members have also received training on the new Code of Conduct and approximately 50% of council members attended that training and an additional date has been identified for early this year and inviting those members who were unable to attend the previous training to attend this session.
6. The committee will need to consider a training strategy for both parish council members through the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and also how to engage those parish councils who are not members of Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and to formulate a training strategy on the new Code of Conduct and local assessments.
7. The committee will also need to consider how best to make material available to the public on changes by use of the Council's website, Herefordshire Matters and other media.

8. In relation to standards committee members the Head of Legal and Democratic Services has written to both Worcestershire and Shropshire who have both indicated an interest and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is trying to arrange a meeting with them to agree a plan and date for training on local assessments and filtering. This will be reported to committee members as soon as possible.

Recommendations

THAT

the committee considers the above training and any other comments it may wish to make in relation to training in respect of local assessment, parish council members, and members of Herefordshire Council

Background Papers

None