

Summary Sheet

Standards Committee Report

Standards and Ethics Committee - 28th September, 2017

Title

Training Update and Revised Standards Bulletin (Recent Updates in Standards and Ethics)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

N/A

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

A update on the future proposed training for members of Parish and Town Councils on codes of conduct and standards and ethics generally and a revised (shortened) version of the bulletin reporting on recent and key updates in standards and ethics.

Recommendations

That the Committee notes the information about upcoming training sessions, identifies future training initiatives to be undertaken with Parish and Town Councils and notes the revised version of the bulletin that has been distributed Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham and agrees publishing this on the Council's website.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Training – Role Play Scenario Example (to be distributed at the meeting)

Appendix 2 – Rotherham Standards and Ethics Bulletin

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title

Training Update and Standards Bulletin (Recent Updates in Standards and Ethics)

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Standards and Ethics Committee:
- (i) notes the update about future training sessions
 - (ii) identifies future training initiatives to be undertaken with Parish and Town Councils
 - (iii) notes the content of the revised bulletin that has been distributed to Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham.
 - (iv) agrees uploading the bulletin onto Council's website.

2. Background

TRAINING SESSION

- 2.1 Following discussions about previous training sessions with Parish and Town Councillors (together with clerks) on the Code of Conduct and standards and ethics generally, it was suggested that a different training method could be used and an example of role play training was discussed (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 At the previous session, the clerks agreed that it would be beneficial to arrange a further separate meeting with all the clerks; where the Monitoring Officer could offer support and facilitate new and existing clerks to form a network. As well as arranging this at a suitable location for the clerks, a session focusing on chairing skills is being arranged.

BULLETIN

- 2.3 Following discussions with the Standards and Ethics Committee and conclusion of training to members of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham, it was felt that a short bulletin (Appendix 2) reporting on key updates in standards and ethics (based on versions produced by the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Bulletin and other such material) ought to be distributed widely to members of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham and potentially even on the Council's website.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 It is important that Parish Council's and Town Council members are supported in understanding issues in relation to the Code of Conduct and Standards generally.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 Recommendations have been referred to above.

5. Consultation

5.1 N/A

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 The Monitoring Officer will be responsible for implementing any decisions arising from this report.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 None

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The Council and Standards and Ethics Committee have a statutory duty to uphold ethical standards. Training Parish and Town Councillors (together with clerks), assists in fulfilling this duty.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 None

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The training and bulletin applies equally to all Parish and Town Councils.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 None

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director, Legal Services