

Wiltshire Council

Standards Committee

26 September 2018

Code of Conduct Training Update

Purpose

1. To update the Committee in relation to the provision of E-Learning Code of Conduct Training and to consider any further action that the Committee deem appropriate to move forward.

Progress to date

2. At previous meetings on the 18 April 2018 and the 20 June 2018, the Standards Committee considered the provision of an E-learning platform that would allow Councillors to undertake training in their own time. The Monitoring Officer was asked through the Council's Public Law and Compliance Team, to make further enquiries with organisations that may be able to assist in the development of a cost-effective training platform.
3. The Monitoring Officer had through the Public Law and Compliance Team concluded in their initial review presented to the standards Committee on the 20 June, that there is a lack of co-ordinated training available to Councillors on this subject.
4. The Human Resources Team of Wiltshire Council are able to offer a platform on the Council's Grow system. This is a training platform for Council employees which could be developed to provide a modular training programme for Councillors. The training platform could include training videos, resource material and a series of concluding questions. This will ensure that the learner has attained the appropriate level of understanding and insight. Significant work on the development of training material will be required to take this forward.
5. Discussions are currently underway with Linda Roberts, Head of Conferences, Training & Education at the Society of Local Council Clerks, "SLCC" centred around the possibility of developing a training platform. The SLCC is a national body that has previously collaborated with other authorities in the provision of training. Linda Roberts is currently making enquiries with her technical team to ensure that material can be shared, and will be making further enquiries with partner authorities that may be able to contribute towards the development of training material and expertise.

6. In our discussions with SLCC we considered the breadth of training material that would be required to provide a comprehensive training programme and potential opportunities to market training to other local authorities.
7. The National Association of Local Councils “NALC”, do not appear to have a comprehensive training programme in place. Their training tends to be face to face, and centred around specific training needs with member organisations. Please see attached at Appendix 1, a recent NALC newsletter which identified a training need, with an estimated investment requirement of £2 million, to provide training on ethical governance and standards.
8. The Public law and Compliance Team is currently making enquiries with Cornwall Council as to their Councillor training resources. Cornwall Council has, in principle, indicated a willingness to share their training material and we will report further to the Committee with details when these are made available to us.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is asked to note the progress of developments to date and to advise on any further action it considers appropriate at this stage.

Ian Gibbons, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, and Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Sukdave Ghuman, Team Leader, Public Law and Compliance,
sukdave.ghuman@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – NALC Newsletter