

Standards Committee – 5 October 2015

Feedback on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Training

Summary of report:

This report is to provide members of the Standards Committee with feedback and analysis on the recent Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Training which was offered to all Councillors on 2 September 2015.

Background papers:

None

Recommendation:

- (1) To note the contents of the report

1.0 Background

Following discussions at Standards Committee earlier in the year, it was agreed training on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests should be offered to all elected members.

Three sessions were subsequently delivered on 2 September which were facilitated by Tony Cox, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and John Garner, Head of Democratic Services.

Full analysis on the feedback forms completed by members who attended the training can be found in Appendix A attached.

2.0 Resource and legal considerations:

None directly related to this report.

The training offered to members was managed by Democratic Services and delivered by senior officers from Legal and Democratic Services.

3.0 Financial Implications

None arising from this report.

Any costs incurred in the delivery of the training session on 2 September were met from existing budgets.

4.0 Performance and Risk Management issues:

Performance and risk management is a feature of all Council functions. It is imperative elected members have a clear framework of standards to follow when delivering services to the community. In addition, all elected members need to fully understand rules and regulations relating to their Code of Conduct. This was addressed in the training session delivered in early September.

5.0 Equality Implications:

In offering and delivering training to elected members the council will ensure members discharge their functions in an open manner whilst working within the Code of Conduct which includes specific requirements to observe equalities.

6.0 Consultation:

There is no requirement to consult on this report.

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**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Training
2 September 2015**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Training was a training session that came out of a discussion with the Standards Committee. Three sessions were delivered on 2 September which were facilitated by Tony Cox, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and John Garner, Head of Democratic Services.

In total twelve members returned feedback forms giving their thoughts on the training session:

- **Seven** were from the Labour group (Councillor Jukes, Councillor Russell, Councillor Underhill, Councillor Jevons, Councillor Burley, Councillor Chambers and Councillor J Fitzpatrick),
- **Four** were from the Conservative group (Councillor Rochelle, Councillor Hicken, Councillor Ferguson and Councillor Washbrook)
- **One** was UKIP (Councillor L Hazell).

No responses were received from the Liberal Democrats or Independent members.

A breakdown of their feedback is as follows:

Q1 – What were your reasons for attending this development session?

Eleven members responded:

- Three members said it was 'to gain knowledge and information'
- Three members said it was 'refresher training' for them
- Three members said it was 'to clarify the obligations imposed on them as a member'
- One member said it was 'to improve awareness'
- One member said it was 'out of interest'

One member made no comment

Q2 – Were your expectations met?

Eleven members commented they were whilst one member made no comment

Q3 – How will you use the knowledge, skills and awareness in your role as an elected member?

All twelve members responded saying:

- Six members said it will ensure they comply with the rules as a member
- Three members said it will assist them in knowing when to raise a DPI or explain a reason to a constituent
- One member said by visiting Tony Cox and John Garner
- One member said it was mostly common sense
- One member said it gave them greater awareness of the subject matter

Q4 – How do you rate your understanding of the topic before attending the session?

- One member rated their understanding as 2
- Three members rated their understanding as 3
- Five members rated their understanding as 4
- Three members rated their understanding as 5

Q5 – How do you rate your understanding and knowledge of the session topic at the end of the session?

- Five members rated their understanding as 4
- Seven members rated their understanding as 5

Q6 – is there anything else, not covered in the session that would help your understanding and knowledge of the session topic?

- Four members said 'no'
- Seven members made 'no comment'
- One member said the odd case study could be useful if the course was delivered in future

Q7 – Were you given handouts?

All twelve members said they were.

If yes, please state if they were useful or not and if not useful, give reasons?

- Four members said they found these to be useful
- Six members made 'no comment'
- One member said they were 'a good reference point for the future'
- One member said they will be 'helpful to refer back to'

**Q8 – Please rate the quality of the following:
The overall quality of the development activity**

- Four members said it was 'very good'
- Eight members said it was 'excellent'

Facilitator

- Three members said they were 'very good'
- Nine members said they were 'excellent'

Q9 – are there any comments you would like to make that could improve the session for others?

Only one member made a comment saying all members should attend this training if it was to be delivered in future.