

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Ethics and Standards Committee

DATE: 6 March 2024

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Town and Community Council training plans

PURPOSE OF REPORT: For information

A report was presented to the Ethics and Standards Committee on 25th January 2023 on the Town and Community Council training plans. The Committee had requested that officers collate the training plans of Town and Community Councils which had to be produced and published by 5/11/22 under S67 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The Standards Officers had written to the Town and Community Councils requesting a copy of their Council's training plan by 2nd January 2023. 13 Town/Community Councils had shared their training plans by the deadline.

The Standards Officer sent a reminder Town and Community Council that they must prepare and publish a training plan, and requested that the plans are sent to Ceredigion County Council by 24th January 2024. Clerks were informed that the training plan content in so far as it refers to the Code of conduct for members is useful to the Committee to assess the training needs of Town/Community Councils.

Training plans received 2022/23:

- Aberporth
- Llandysul
- Llanrhystud
- Trefeurig
- Llanbadarn
- Llanfarian
- Aberteifi
- Ceulanmaesmawr
- Geneurglyn
- Llanarth
- Llanddewi
- Llandysiliogogo
- Llanfihangel Ystrad
- Llangrannog
- Llangynfelyn
- Llanllwchaearn
- Llanwenog
- New Quay
- Llangwryfon

- Ysgubor y Coed

Training plans received 2024:

- Aberystwyth
- Borth
- Ferwig
- Lampeter
- Llanbadarn
- Llandysdiliogogo
- Llanfihangelystad
- Llangrannog
- Llangwryfon
- Llanllwchaearn
- Llanrhystyd
- Penbryn
- Trefeurig

25 Town/Community Councils have responded to the request. 26 Town/Community Councils are yet to respond.

A number of the plans list the following for each Councillor, following the One Voice Wales Template:

- Training undertaken 2021- 2022
- Training undertaken 2022- 2023
- Training undertaken 2023-24
- Training undertaken 2024-25

A few refer to module 9 on the Code of Conduct from the One Voice Wales Courses National Training Programme for Community and Town Councils in Wales. This is described as '*A highly interactive and informative module that enables participants to understand the Nolan principles of public life and develop a more in-depth knowledge of the Code of Conduct and how it applies to local Councillors.*

The module specifically covers the following:

- *The Nolan Principles*
- *What Councillors must do and must not do*
- *Personal/Prejudicial interests*
- *Predetermination & Predisposition*
- *How the Code is Policed*

The learning will be reinforced through practical exercises and a DVD of the Ombudsman explaining his role will be featured.'

Some list code of conduct as 'Training to be arranged in 2024/25'

One lists that 'All Councillors are provided with a Code of Conduct document and receive a short training session following their election – every 4 years'.

The level of detail and information provided does vary between Town/Community Councils.

This information has been shared with County Councillors to inform them if the Community Council in their Ward had not presented the plan to the Council; and to inform them that the plan was required to be on their website in line with legislation.

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To note the contents of the report.

Contact Name: Lisa Evans
Designation: Scrutiny and Standards Officer
Date of Report: 14 February 2024
Acronyms:

