
MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT 2017/18

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report follows the decision of the Standards Committee at its meeting on 11 April 2017 that a report be submitted on possible options for pursuing the suggestions from the Parish/Town Councils on the delivery of training bespoke to them.

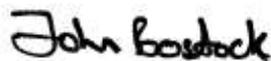
2 PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL TRAINING

- 2.1 Feedback from Parish/Town Councils following the visits by the Deputy Leader in 2016 indicated that the Parish/Town Councils would find it useful to have training specifically for them delivered by Rochford District Council officers at Parish/Town Council venues. It was suggested that the Parishes could be grouped together geographically to receive this training and that the usual charge would apply, that is, one representative from each Parish/Town Council free of charge, but a charge of £40 for additional places. It was noted that such arrangements would require additional resource, particularly in officer time. To date, the prime purpose of the Learning and Development Programme has been to provide training for District Council Members.
- 2.2 Courses that were of particular interest to the Parish/Town Councils were identified as Local Highway Panels and Planning. Accordingly, contact has been made with the Liaison Officer for the Rochford District Local Highways Panel (LHP) and with the Rochford District Council Assistant Director for Planning and Regeneration Services.
- 2.3 The Highways Liaison Officer for the Rochford LHP advised that he has sole responsibility for managing the LHPs for Rochford and one other District in Essex; his time is paid for out of the LHP budget. As a result, there is neither the officer nor financial resource to deliver training in the way that the Parish Councils have proposed.
- 2.4 The District Council's Assistant Director, Planning and Regeneration Services has advised that there is insufficient officer resource to be able to offer and deliver bespoke training sessions for Parish/Town Councils around the District. The Council's Planning Service offers three mandatory training sessions and a tour of planning sites for District Councillors each year, as well as an annual bespoke planning training course for Parish/Town Councils.
- 2.5 The Assistant Director has raised the possibility of each Parish Council being allowed one representative on each of the District Council planning training courses, dependent on capacity. Previously, however, the Standards Committee has resolved that the mandatory planning training sessions be reserved for District Council Members only. A separate planning training session is arranged annually for Parish/Town Councils.

- 2.6 The planning training session for Parish/Town Councils scheduled to take place on 8 June was cancelled due to the date clash with the General Election. The session will be rescheduled to take place in the autumn and will be designed specifically for Parish/Town Councils.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the content of this report and whether it wishes to take any further action on this matter at this time.



John Bostock

Assistant Director, Democratic Services

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Michelle Power (Democratic Services Officer) on:-

Phone: 01702 318179

Email: michelle.power@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.