

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**               **MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014**

**REPORT BY:**       **MONITORING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT:**           **RECORDING MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING  
ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To consider the practicalities of recording Member attendance at training as part of the Council's website.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 At the committee's meeting on the 10 March during consideration of the annual report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales there was discussion on member training and the Chair raised the issue of training records being displayed on the Council's website. It was explained that this was not currently done but that the practicalities of doing so would be investigated.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Training is important to enable members to be effective. We offer member development interviews and survey councillors to see what their needs are. We then provide and procure a range of courses as set out below. New members receive a programme of induction training. Those members on particular committees or panels receive training specific to those fora, such as Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, Audit Committee and Pensions Panel. There is also an annual member development programme on skills and topics agreed each year by Democratic Services Committee. In addition there are ad-hoc briefings or training sessions held as and when needed. A current example of this is providing training individually to members as they are issued with iPads which are the subject of a phased roll-out to members. In addition members may be authorised to attend external training courses that they believe would be of benefit to them.

3.02 Besides the member training the Council organises the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) also arranges member development events. These are usually held on a regional basis on topics of interest to all Councils such as Overview & Scrutiny. The WLGA also has member induction courses following County Council elections and holds an annual conference with workshops on topics of current interest.

- 3.02 Where training is offered corporately to all members then Member Services maintain a record of attendance at such events. The accuracy of such records is dependent upon members recording their attendance on the attendance sheet and this being provided to Member Services.
- 3.03 As not all the training events offered are mandatory it is not possible to establish a percentage attendance rate. All that could realistically be recorded would be the number and names of events attended within a given period. The topics or skills covered in the annual member development programme tend to be repeated every few years. Experienced members who have previously attended such training are less likely to attend when training they have previously attended is repeated. Equally councillors bring skills from their private/professional lives that might make it unnecessary to attend some training events. A statistical record of attendance over recent years can therefore be misleading.
- 3.05 Attendance at member training events is monitored by the Democratic Services Committee. At its last meeting it wished to explore ways in which member attendance at training events could be increased. It decided that a questionnaire should be sent to all members to explore ways of increased attendance and for the results to be reported to its next meeting in July. These results can also be reported to the committee.
- 3.06 In view of the considerations referred to in paragraphs 3.01 to 3.03 above it is considered that publishing attendance at member training events on the Council's website is not practical and will give a misleading impression to the public.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That member attendance at training events continue to be recorded by Member Services but statistics not be published on the Council's website.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None as a result of this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 Any change to the existing arrangements could have personnel implications.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None as a result of this report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 None as a result of this report.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.00 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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