

Standards Committee

16 September 2010

Parish and Town Council Conference



Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the feedback received from the Parish and Town Councils Conference which, hosted by the Standards Committee, was held on 19 July 2010.

Background

2. Members will recall that following the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees held last October and attended by the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Monitoring Officer and the Democratic Services Manager, plans were made for the Council's Standards Committee to deliver a similar style Conference for all of the County's Parish and Town Councils.
3. After months of planning and preparation the first Parish and Town Council Conference was held on Monday 19 July 2010 at County Hall. Delegates were invited from all of the County's local authorities and more than 100 people attended, with a broad mix of local councillor's, chairs and clerks along with some members of the Standards Committee.
4. Several presentations were delivered during the event, covering topics such as Quality Status, the Local Councils Charter and the Local Assessment process. The topics raised generated good debate and discussion with delegates and many of those in attendance took the opportunity to seek clarification and ask questions on relevant matters.

Feedback

5. All delegates were provided with an evaluation form which they were requested to complete in order for comments to be taken on board and improvements made to similar future events. 33 evaluation forms have been completed and returned, all of which provide positive feedback.
6. The forms asked delegates to score the event on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. 3 people gave the event a rating of 3, 22 gave the event a rating of 4 and 8 people rated the score with a 5.
7. Reasons for the scores provided generally commented on how informative, concise, well delivered and relevant the presentations had been. There were several comments that the venue (Council Chamber, County Hall) was too formal and that future events should be delivered more locally. All comments, compliments and suggestions will be taken into consideration when similar events are being planned.

Recommendation

8. Standards Committee is invited to note the content of this report.

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