

Item 7

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1ST NOVEMBER 2007

REPORT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

STANDARDS TRAINING EVENTS: 29TH AUGUST; 5TH SEPTEMBER; 17TH SEPTEMBER AND 26TH SEPTEMBER 2007: EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Report analyses the evaluation questionnaire responses from the training events on standard issues that were held on Wednesday, 29th August 2007 at Ferryhill Town Council, Wednesday, 5th September 2007 at Great Aycliffe Town Council, Monday, 17th September 2007 at Sedgefield Town Council and Wednesday, 26th September 2007 at Spennymoor Town Council. The training sessions were conducted by both the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer.
- 1.2 The events provided members with an update on standards issues, including the Revised Members Code of Conduct, and provided an opportunity to discuss current issues and receive feedback.

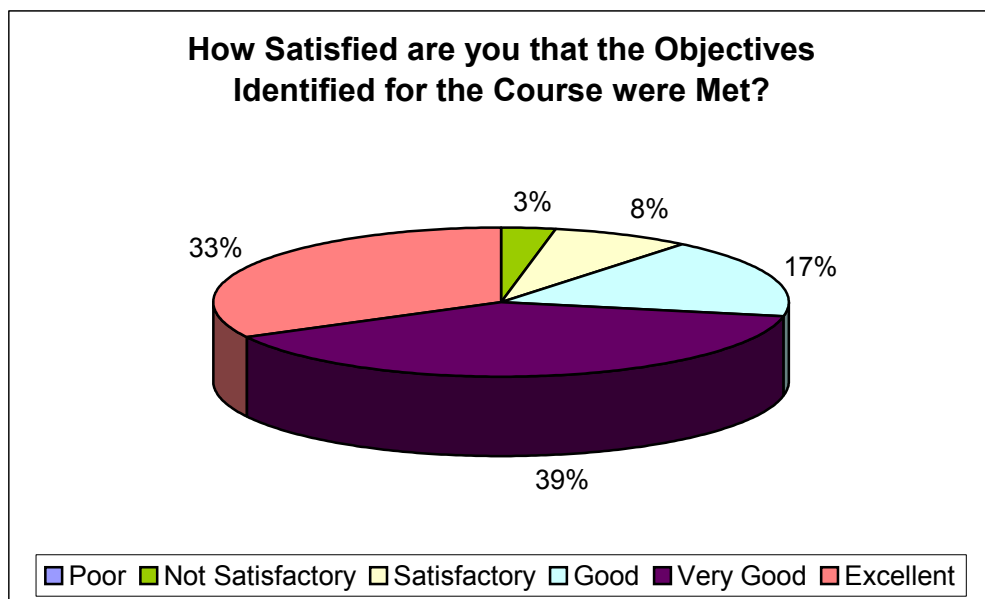
2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee be appraised of the report.

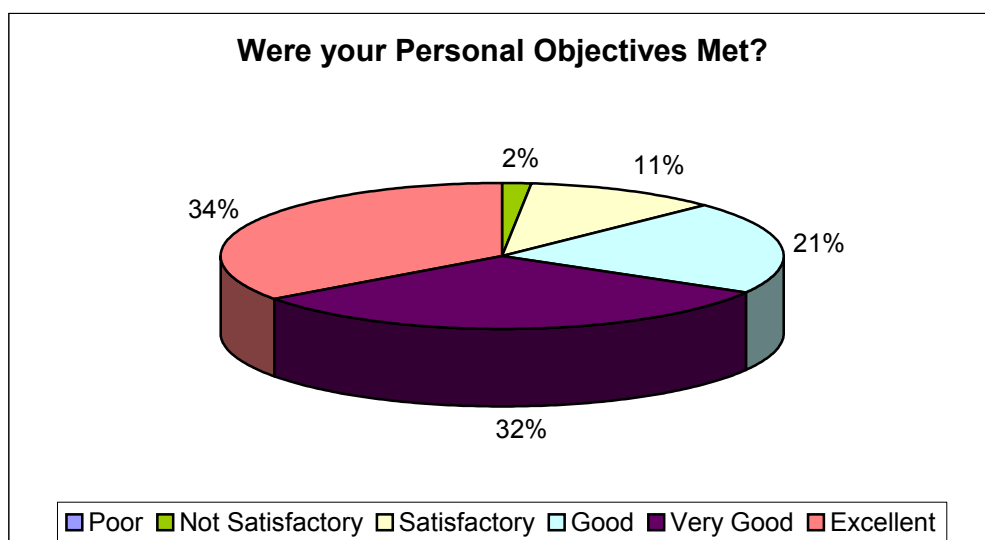
3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The training events were specifically aimed at Members of Borough and Parish Councils and their Clerks.
- 3.2 18 Members attended the first training event held at Ferryhill Town Council, on the 29th August 2007, and all Councillors completed the evaluation questionnaire.
- 3.3 22 Members attended the second training event held at Great Aycliffe Town Council, on the 5th September 2007, and all Councillors completed the evaluation questionnaire.
- 3.4 13 Members attended the third training event held at Sedgefield Town Council, on the 17th September 2007, and, of these, 12 members completed the questionnaire.
- 3.5 12 Members attended the fourth training event held at Spennymoor Town Council, on the 26th September 2007, and all Councillors completed the questionnaire.

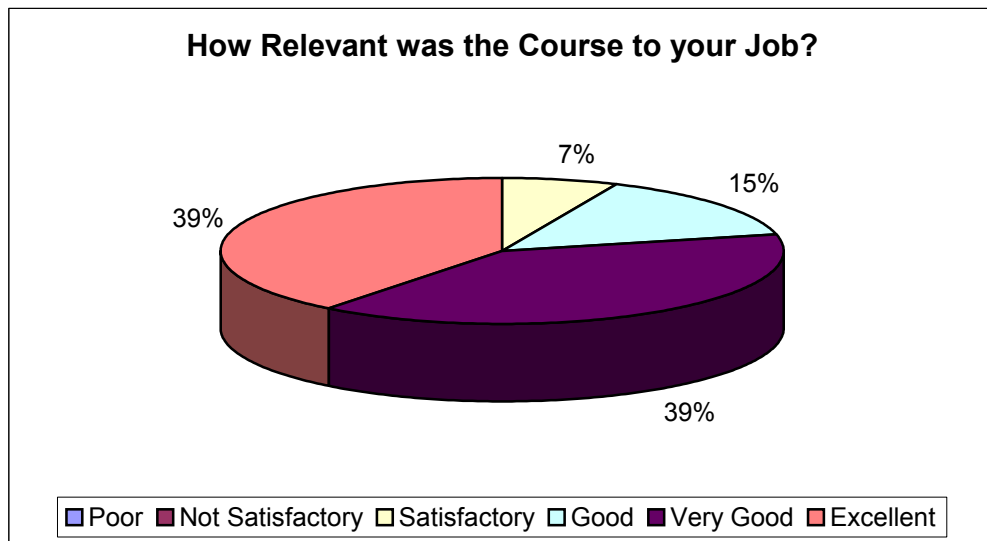
- 3.6 The questionnaire focused on three areas, which consisted of general information, a course satisfaction survey and comments.
- 3.7 **Course Satisfaction Survey:** All of the responses to the questions from the satisfaction survey have been correlated and conclusions have been drawn. The following analysis is based on the collective questionnaire responses from all 4 training events.
- 3.8 *How satisfied are you that the objectives identified for the course were met?* The responses to this question was extremely positive, 89% of the delegates were of the opinion that the objectives identified for the course were met to a good, very good or excellent level.



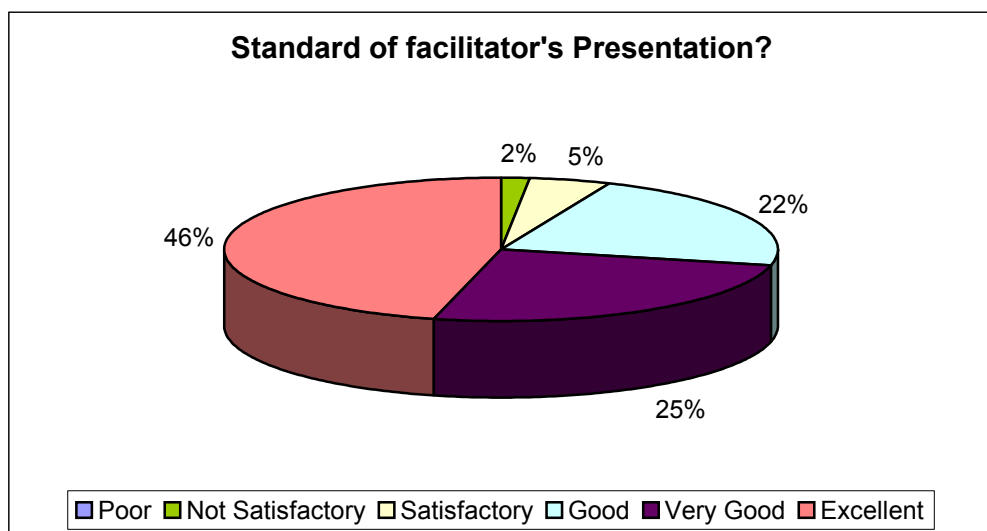
- 3.9 *Were your personal objectives met?* Most of the delegates thought that their personal objectives had been met, 66% to a very high standard.



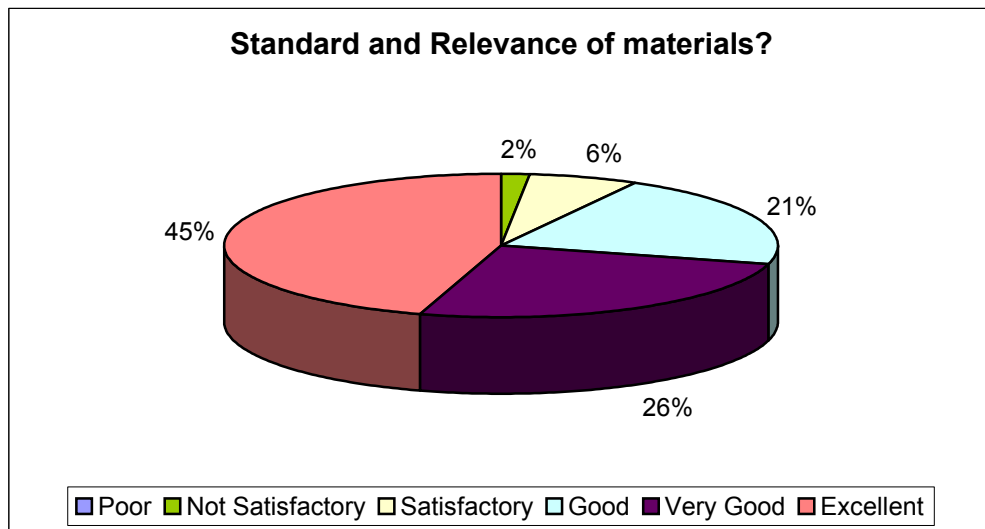
3.10 *How relevant was the course to your Job?* As expected the course was very relevant to the majority of the delegates because the course was aimed specifically at Members.



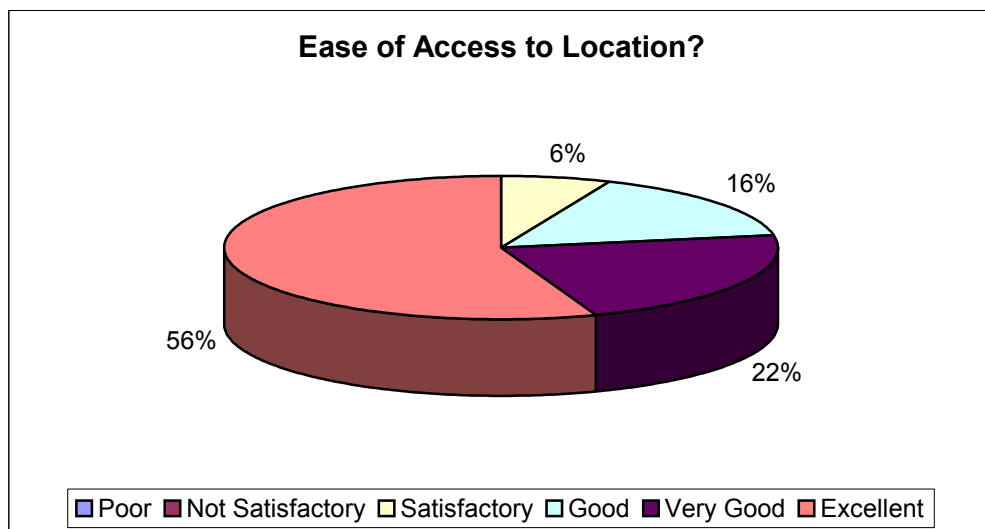
3.11 *Standard of facilitator's presentation?* 46% of the delegates thought that the standard of the facilitator's presentation was excellent.



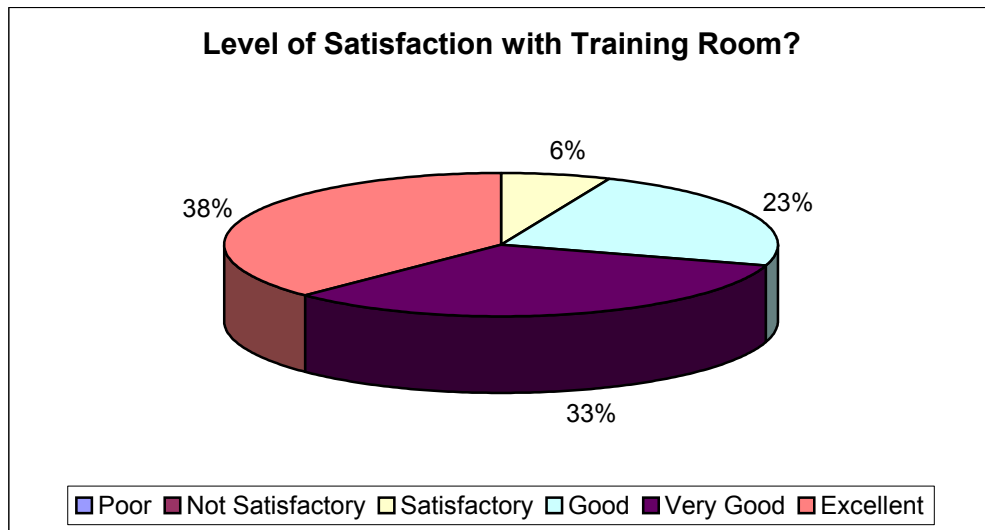
3.12 *Standard and relevance of materials?* 45% of the delegates agreed that the standard and relevance of the material was excellent. Most of the remaining delegates were more than satisfied with the material.



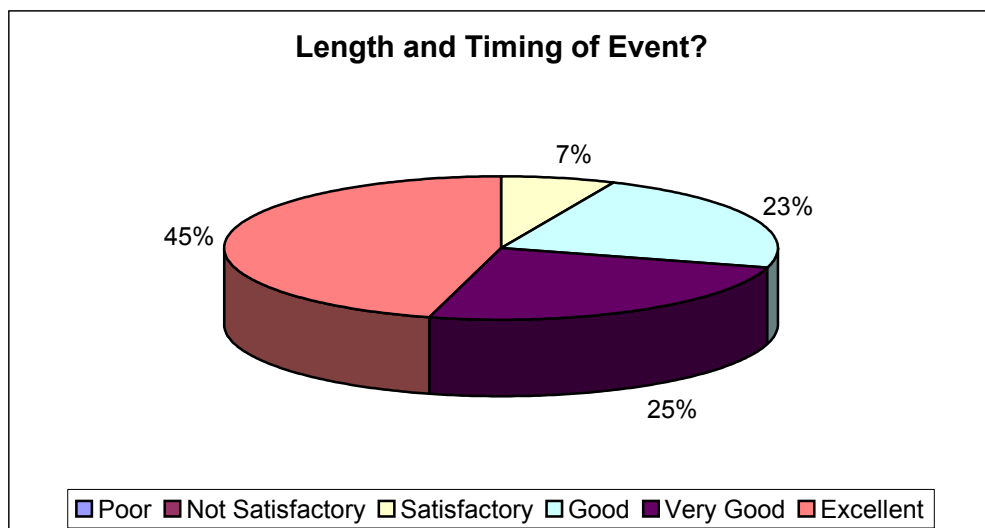
3.13 *Ease of access to location?* Over half the delegates thought that the location was excellent, possibly because the delegates were familiar with the location from previous meetings and training.



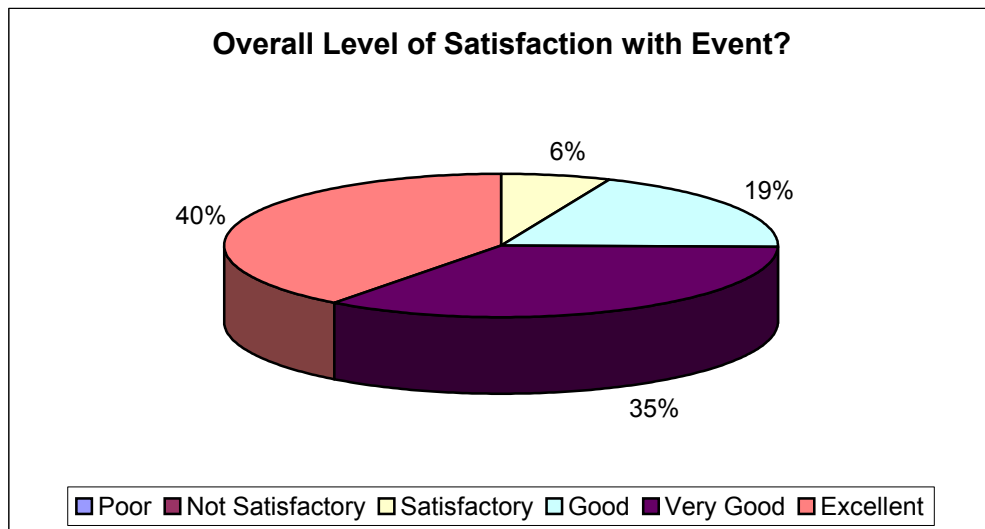
3.14 *Level of satisfaction with training room?* 71% of the delegates agreed that the training room was of a very good or higher standard.



3.15 *Length and timing of event?* 70% of the delegates agreed that the length and time of the event was very good/excellent.



3.16 *Overall level of satisfaction with event?* As the figures show below, the event was a huge success with 75% of delegates expressing a high level of overall satisfaction.



3.17 **Comments:** The majority of the questionnaires contained positive feedback and comments. Some of the comments included:

- Explanations were very plain and easy to comprehend.
- Interesting, informative and well delivered.
- Extremely good DVD – it brought the course alive.
- Very important issues – well presented.

3.18 Several suggestions were made to further improve the event, including:

- Examples of more scenarios.
- Case studies/histories to give a clearer picture to the prejudicial/ personal interests and the declaration of.
- Possible discussion groups with 2/3 examples to let attendees decide if code was breached or not.
- Examples of situations that could occur and how they could be dealt with.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific financial implications have been identified.

5. CONSULTATIONS

5.1 The Council's Management Team has considered this report.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 All material considerations have been taken into account in the contents of this report. In particular, risks may arise unless members of the Council are fully appraised on standards matters.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None apply.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

8.1 None apply.

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Wards: N/A

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers

Evaluation Questionnaires: 29th August 2007; 5th September 2007; 17th September 2007 and 26th September 2007.

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Council's Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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