

Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council

Training and Development Policy

Introduction

Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council is committed to ensuring that its Clerk and Councillors are provided with the training they require to ensure they can carry out their duties to the best of their abilities and are up to date with all current legislation. The Council recognises that the most important resource is its staff and Councillors and is committed to encouraging the enhancement of their knowledge and qualifications through appropriate training and development.

A training budget is allocated to enable attendance at any relevant training and conferences throughout the year.

Policy Statement

The Clerk is responsible for either procuring or, occasionally providing, the necessary training to ensure that everybody is suitably equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to fulfil their duties to the Parish and residents.

Membership of County Association and SLCC

The Council will retain membership of the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) in order that all training opportunities can be accessed.

Training and Development Activity

All Councillors will be:

- issued with an electronic copies of the Council's current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, policies of the Council and any other information which is deemed relevant.
- given an electronic copy of the Good Councillor Guide and the Good Councillor Guide to Finance and Transparency.
- emailed all updates and newsletters which the Clerk receives and deems relevant.
- attend DALC's Being a Good Councillor course – this must be completed within 6 months of attaining office, or as soon as possible course becomes available. Can be completed either face to face, or virtual.
- Code of Conduct – This must be completed within 6 months of attaining office of as soon as a course become available.
- circulated any other training course details which may enhance their position, for example Finance and Budgeting for Councillors. The Chair and Vice Chair are also encouraged to attend DALC's Chair course upon their election and acceptance to office.

Councils will need to consider the content carefully and adapt it to meet their individual circumstances. The Clerk / RFO will be:

- provided with a contract of employment setting out clear objectives and expectations.
- receive an employment and salary review annually from the Council.
- encouraged to attend all relevant DALC or SLCC's clerks' training courses including the Roles and Responsibilities Course.
- encouraged to gain ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) (Level 2), and
- encouraged to gain the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) (Level 3).
- undertake any other training relevant to the proficient discharge of their duties such as IT, legal powers, finance and planning which is identified through regular training needs assessments.
- encouraged to attend relevant local meetings such as Clerk's forums and briefings.
- able to subscribe to relevant publications and advice services including the SLCC and NALC.
- provided with all relevant publications such as the Local Council Administration reference book and the SLCC Clerks' Manual.
- given regular feedback from the Chair of the Council on their performance.
- entitled to paid study leave in order to work towards the qualifications.

Training Needs Identification

Training requirements for Councillors will usually be identified by themselves, the Chair and Clerk. Opportunities to attend courses will be investigated by the Clerk and brought to the attention of the Full Council.

Training needs for the Clerk will be identified through the recruitment process for new Clerks, including application form and interview, formal and informal discussions, annual staff appraisal and changes in legislation.

The Clerk is expected to keep up to date with developments in the sector and highlight to the Council any training required.

Resourcing Training

A review will be undertaken annually during the budget process to ascertain any weaknesses or potential areas of improvement that the Parish Council could enhance through training. Budgets will be put in place and agreed to cover training courses, annual subscriptions and purchasing of relevant publications.

Evaluation and Review of Training

The Clerk will maintain an updated training record for all Councillors and the Clerk.

Following attending any training the person who attended will report back to the Council on the relevance and effectiveness of the training supplied.

Adopted at a Parish Council Meeting on 12th February 2025, (Minute reference: 288/25). .

To be reviewed in two years, or sooner should legislation dictate.