

John Williams (Chief Executive and Town Clerks)

From: Reynolds, Nicole [NReynolds@thurrock.gov.uk] on behalf of Blades, Monica [MBLADES@thurrock.gov.uk]
Sent: 22 February 2007 15:35
To: jo.ofarrell@harlow.gov.uk; vrogacs@uttlesford.gov.uk; albert.bugeja@rochford.gov.uk; alex.hallam@essexcc.gov.uk; Andrew Weavers; asmith@castlepoint.gov.uk; brian.keane@brentwood.gov.uk; Catherine Nicholson; coboyle@eppingforestdc.gov.uk; Christine Oliva; douglas.hayton@essexcc.gov.uk; john.tilsley@essexcc.gov.uk; John Williams (Chief Executive and Town Clerks); kbrown@tendringdc.gov.uk; lorraine.browne@basildon.gov.uk; Blades, Monica; mperry@uttlesford.gov.uk; patde@braintree.gov.uk; Edge, Philip; philip.thomson@essexcc.gov.uk; shalo@braintree.gov.uk; simon.quelch@maldon.gov.uk; susan.deval@chelmsfordbc.gov.uk; swalter-browne@tendringdc.gov.uk; John Williams (Chief Executive and Town Clerks)
Cc: Blades, Monica; Sugrue, Louise
Subject: Members Development Opportunity [Scanned by Sophos AV]

An exciting Members development opportunity is taking place at Thurrock Council on **13th March between 2pm-5pm.**

As Members will be aware, the Standards Board for England now has the power to refer allegations of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct back to local authority Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees for local investigation and determination.

Building on the work Members have already done in the areas of ethical governance and standards committee deliberations, Thurrock Council has engaged Mr Peter Keith-Lucas from Bevan Brittan solicitors to provide the opportunity for Members, particularly Standards Committee Members to gain practical experience in conducting a local hearing and determination. This "mock trial" will increase Members' familiarity with the procedures and issues associated with local investigations and hearings in a realistic way.

Mr Keith-Lucas has wide experience in conducting training in this highly specialised area. Mr Keith-Lucas has developed a practical role-play which has been successfully used in work with over 60 different authorities or groups of authorities.

The general outline of the proposed "mock trial" is;

- o Discussion about how a complaint is received, who decides that it should be investigated, how to conduct an investigation, how much the Standards Committee will be told about complaints at this stage, and the importance of the pre-hearing process and dealing with a "not guilty" report.
- o Preliminary procedures, hearing evidence from the investigating officer and Members, common problems encountered during hearings (such as conflicts of interest, Members turning up late, the Members failing to attend, confessions of even worse offences, and so on) and the hearings process itself
- o Outcomes, including sanctions, notifications and appeals.
- o Members will also have the chance to play roles as complainants, witnesses, Members of the standards committee.

Thurrock Council is happy to invite all Members (particularly those from Standards Committees) to attend. The cost will be £35 per person and will include materials and light refreshments. The venue will be confirmed shortly.

To register, please e-mail Nicole Reynolds (nreynolds@thurrock.gov.uk) or call her on 01375 652836

Kind regards

Monica Blades

Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Legal Services
Thurrock Council
New Road, Grays
Essex RM17 6SL

Tel: +44 (0) 1375 65 2442
Fax: +44 (0) 1375 65 2782
Email: mbaldes@thurrock.gov.uk
Web: www.thurrock.gov.uk

The information in this e-mail and any attachment(s) are intended to be confidential and may be legally privileged. Access to and use of its content by anyone else other than the addressee(s) may be unlawful and will not be recognised by Thurrock Council for business purposes. If you have received this message by mistake, please notify the sender immediately, delete it and do not copy it to anyone else. Thurrock Council cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this message as it has been transmitted over a public network.

Any opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Thurrock Council.

Any attachment(s) to this message has been checked for viruses, but please rely on your own virus checker and procedures.

Senders and recipients of e-mail should be aware that under the UK Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation these contents may have to be disclosed in response to a request.

All e-mail sent to or from this address will be processed by Thurrock Council's corporate e-mail system and may be subject to scrutiny by someone other than the addressee.

This message has been checked for all known viruses by the MessageLabs Virus Control Centre.
For further information visit
<http://www.messagelabs.com/stats.asp>