



COUNTY OFFICES
NEWLAND • LINCOLN

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMBERS' ROOM

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Telephone (01522) 552222

13 January 2006

Dear Fellow Chairmen,

Re: Training Event -20 March 2006- "Mediation and Member Standards"

This is a personal invitation to you and members of your Committee, together with your Monitoring Officer, to attend a training event to be held at County Offices, Newland, Lincoln on Monday 20 March 2006 at 2pm-5pm. There will also be a buffet lunch from 12.30pm.

The subject of the training will be- "Mediation and Member Standards". The focus of the training will be on the role and importance of mediation for standards committees when handling complaints against both elected and co-opted members in the context of forthcoming significant changes to the standards regime. The event will also help members appreciate what mediation is and how it works. It is intended that part of the training will be a role play scenario based on a real case.

The training will be facilitated by Jonathan Goolden, Solicitor, who has wide experience of working with members of public authorities. Jonathan is also a trained mediator. In addition, it is hoped that Jonathan will be joined by Marilyn McCarron. Marilyn is another experienced mediator and, like Jonathan, is a former monitoring officer.

It is envisaged that this training session will last until around 4.30pm.

Following that session, I would also like to take the opportunity of discussing with you two other matters. Firstly, the question of joint training sessions (covering for example changes to the Member Code of Conduct, local determinations etc.). Secondly, the setting up of a local standards forum for Lincolnshire. The aim would be to meet perhaps twice a year to consider items of mutual interest relating to member standards and the ethical agenda in local government generally. Hopefully, such a forum would be a useful means of considering real cases and issues that have arisen in our own authorities, as well as the latest and best (or most useful!) practice and guidance, to the benefit of us all.