

Brian Gibbons AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Val Lloyd AM
Chair of Legislation Committee 2
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

23 OCT 2009

22 October 2009

Dear Val

The Proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Local Government) Order 2009 – Evidence Session 1

At Legislation Committee on 24 September, I promised to send some figures on community and town council participation in training.

The Research Study into the Role, Functions and Future Potential of Community and Town Councils in Wales (August 2003) stated that “the most fundamental requirement for any future development of the role of community and town councils, is for more comprehensive training of both clerk and council members”.

The multi agency National Training Advisory Group, which includes One Voice Wales, the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the Welsh Local Government Association, was set up by the Assembly Government in 2004 to address the training needs identified in the study. One of the group’s initial priorities was to develop a National Training Strategy. This was circulated to the sector in 2006.

As a result of this strategy, a number of training initiatives have been developed backed by funding from the Assembly Government. These include a variety of reference guides as well as training programmes.

“Working with your Council” is a long distance training pack for clerks that was launched at the end of 2005. SLCC inform us that 94 packs have been purchased to date. Of these, 54 applicants have claimed support through the bursary for small councils funded by the Assembly Government.

The Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification has recently been introduced into Wales. This is a more advanced qualification in the form of a portfolio and so far 8

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 400
Ffacs • Fax 029 2089 8522

Correspondence: Brian.Gibbons@wales.gsi.gov.uk

clerks have registered for this. SLCC is assembling a support network to provide mentoring to clerks who need assistance in providing the evidence required for their portfolio.

The modular training programme for community councillors was funded by the Assembly Government and developed by One Voice Wales. It was introduced early in 2009. Some 199 councillors have already attended these courses and 265 places have already been booked for courses scheduled between October and April next year. One Voice Wales is hopeful that the final figure attending training by April next year could be over 600.

One Voice Wales has also arranged a series of town and country planning courses with Planning Aid Wales in which 90 councillors have participated.

Additionally, there are opportunities for community and town councillors to attend some training courses arranged for unitary authority members.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Gibbons', written in a cursive style.

Brian Gibbons AM/AC