



AGENDA ITEM: 6

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
1 November 2006**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Contact for further information: Mrs G L Rowe (Ext 5002)

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL TRAINING FOR PARISH COUNCILS

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To assess the need and demand from Parish Councils for constitutional training, before deciding whether to request the Council to provide funding for such training.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That given the response from Parish Councils and the availability of constitutional training from the LAPTC no further action be taken.
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3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At Committee on 1 June 2006 I was asked to write to each Parish Council in West Lancashire seeking their views on whether they would wish the District Council to provide constitutional training for Parish Councils and what form they would find most helpful, with a view to assisting Parish Councils develop their own protocols. A copy of the letter I sent out is attached as Appendix 1. I sent out a reminder to relevant Councils on 26 July 2006.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Details of the responses from the Parish Councils are attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.2 In summary the responses were as follows:

Yes – no suggestions : 3
Yes – suggestions : 1

No : 3
No reply : 9
No – unless majority view : 1
No – initially : 1
Not decided : 1

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 There are no significant sustainability or community strategy implications arising from this report.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There would be financial implications if training were to be organised which would need prior approval from the Council.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 There are no risks to the District Council's business arising from this report.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Given the lack of support for constitutional training from the Parish Councils there seems little point in pursuing this initiative further.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Letter to Parish Councils – 2 June 2006
Appendix 2 – Schedule of Responses
Appendix 3 – Summary of Responses