

EMAIL SENT – 30 October 2017

Dear Councillor/Clerk/Officer

Ahead of the meeting of the Forum next week, I thought it would be useful to set out what I am trying to get from my session, which is scheduled for 9.30 a.m. I am intending to cover two broad and linked areas:

1. **Training and Development:** I attach a copy of my report to yesterday's meeting of the Borough Council's Standards Committee, which gives more background, and which was supported by the Committee. At next week's session I will be looking for your ideas about what can be included in the local initiative and how best it can dovetail with resources that are already available to you, such as through NALC and SLCC. It is very important that you recognise that this is not just about sector specific knowledge for this tier of local government, as my experience with some councils suggests that, as small businesses, there may be merit in considering using a wider range of management and leadership training resources and approaches. At the Forum, I would like to do some work with you, in role-specific groups, to seek to identify the top concerns you have in relation to your working environment (which may include highlighting some difficult issues about personalities, but the outputs will be not be attributable) ; to identify your priorities for training and development ; and a list of topics from which you may like to build a "Frequently Asked Questions" resource. I also hope the Forum will provide a source of volunteers to help with this initiative as I am sure that learning from local best practice will be an effective way forward.
2. **Code(s) of Conduct:** A major part of my work with the council this year has been supporting the revision of the Borough Council's Constitution. The Code of Conduct is an important part of the Constitution but has also been adopted by many Town and Parish councils, so it is important they are able to be involved in the process of revising it. My session will include some brief observations on the Code as it stands, along with suggestions for areas for change, but will, then, move into an exercise to identify your opinions on the current code and your ideas for changes. This is an early opportunity for involvement, but, in due course, I intend to consult all councils using the Rushcliffe model on any proposed changes to it.

I have addressed this e-mail to the Clerks but would be very grateful if they could ensure that it is forwarded to everyone at their council who is intending to go to the Forum next week, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Glen O'Connell
Monitoring Officer
Rushcliffe Borough Council