

**Joy Darby, chief executive officer of the Essex Association of Local Councils, to speak about the training and support available to councillors in Essex;**

The Essex Association has a long standing successful programme of delivering courses to the Local Council sector.

During the year we will expect to hold approximately 60 courses on a variety of topics and about 30 short courses aimed at training Councils in their own premises.

All our courses are open and available for both Clerks, Councillors and Councils.

Specifically for Councillors

- *Councillor training day 1 and 2*
- *Advance Councillor Training Day 1 and 2*
- *Chairman Training Days 1, 2 and 3*

*Last year in Essex the EALC worked with Councils to encourage them to advertise their elections, and put in place a training programme for new councillors and those returning for additional terms of office*

*After the Election we encouraged*

- Every new Councillor to receive a New Councillor Pack, with 80 packs supplied (probably only a fraction of new Councillors)
- Councillor Training Day 1 and 2 was originally expected to run twice, but this was increased to be held 4 times.

194 Councillors were trained

- Advance Cllr Training Day 1 and 2 were held later in the year with 29 Councillors being trained
- Chairman Training Days were repeated

80 Councillors were trained

30 receiving their gavels for completing all three courses

- Due to the popularity we also held a Saturday teach in when 20 Councillors attending to learn good practice in chairing skills

- CPD certificates are provided for any Councillor who wishes to claim their points.
- Whole Council Training – the EALC runs a modular course where Councillors choose their subjects and have them delivered in the Councils own premises. Last year because of the elections 29 of these were delivered.

Why are we attracting so many Councillors to undertake training?

- The EALC is well organised with a course calendar launched every September, ready for the authorities to set training budgets in the autumn
- Each month the course flyers are sent out to promote the courses
- We try to accommodate everyone, and deliver courses during the week, in the evening and on a Saturday.
- We ensure that every Councillor attending gets best value from the course and provide a sandwich lunch to enable networking
- During each course we encourage Councillors to share positive experience

### Tutor Team

The EALC uses 'Practitioners' wherever possible to deliver training, ensuring that their background and or qualifications are relevant for the sector, enabling Councillors to really see how relevant the course content is to their work as Councillors

Additionally professional trainers deliver a plethora of courses at level 2.

Local Council Awards

Using the Local Council Award scheme we promote best practice using the criteria, to encourage Councillors to make sure that their council is acting professionally.

The EALC works with Councils and is achieving success in delivering Councils with Foundation, Quality and Gold level Awards.

In recent years we have found that there have been changes in the age range of Councillors attending training. Far more Councillors are now also still working full time and are using the Courses to support their own CPD

### How do we achieve such good services to train Parish Councillors

The EALC has tremendous support from Essex County Council who provide grants to enable the EALC to

- Work from premises with a training room (£21k per year)

- Provide a £10 k grant for training
- Core grant fund £30 k
- The EALC charges Cllrs to attend Courses

Without this support the ability to deliver to the sector would be compromised

### The Future

In the future the EALC training would benefit Councillors by having National NTS training packs updated and more training packages that we could use.

Our challenges include having enough good quality material to shape a course around and keeping these up to date on limited resourcing.

The EALC is happy to host any round table discussions in Essex if this is helpful