

Directorate: CORPORATE SERVICES

Proposal : MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSAL DETAILS

The proposal is for an increase in the budget for member development, which includes Members' attendance at conferences and seminars. This is in response to a request from Council Business Committee, when considering a report on Members attendance at Conferences and Training Courses in October 2019. The Committee noted that there was a need for a 'realistic budget' which could address the needs identified, these being support for all councillors who need it with ICT and topic based courses for decision makers.

This would allow Councillors, in particular those holding key roles such as Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs, to increase their knowledge of their focus areas. In turn, this should lead to better-informed decision making and more effective community leadership.

The relevant resolutions made by the Committee on October 31st 2019 are:

- 1) That there be a two tier level of amounts that can be spent on events (depending on role) of up to £500 for Chairs of Committees or Cabinet members, and up to £300 for all other Members;
- (2) That a Training Request form be created, with applications to be forwarded via group leaders to the Democratic Services Manager;
- (3) That the conference/seminar evaluation form be expanded – especially under the 'relevance / objectives met' heading, with room to write details rather than being just a tick box, and it be linked to the objectives expected from the application / Training Request form (e.g. what benefits to Council / taxpayers have been achieved by attending this course / conference, and spending this money?).

REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL FUND	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£	£	£	£
Additional Budget	11,000	8,000	6,000	15,000
Total	11,000	8,000	6,000	15,000

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

A Sustainable District	All priorities are affected if well-informed decisions are taken by Councillors who know their subject area well and know the current issues. The conference/seminar evaluation form has been expanded so that Councillors are asked to assess the relevance of the course they have attended to the Council priorities.
An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy	As above
Healthy & Happy Communities	As above
A Co-operative Kind and Responsible Council	As above

CROSS CUTTING THEMES	
Climate Emergency	As above
Community Wealth Building	As above
Community Engagement	As above

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES		
Outcome	Performance Measure	Target
Increased Councillor satisfaction/ Benefit to the Council/ Value for money.	Councillors attending any conference or seminar must fill in an evaluation form. This will assess the benefit they have received from the course and will be submitted to Council Business Committee.	Members will not be sent on any annual conferences which are judged not to be of benefit or poor value for money.