

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Member Development Strategy Review

18th September, 2008

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the revised Member Development Strategy.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

That Council Business Committee adopt the amended Member Development Strategy.

Report

At its meeting on 26th June 2008 Council Business Committee reviewed the Member Development Strategy in light of the new Corporate Priorities and the outcomes of the CPA report.

The review had highlighted four main areas that required inclusion within the Strategy – Political Leadership, Equality and Diversity/Accessible Services, Community Engagement and Action on Climate Change.

Following a detailed discussion on these and other aspects of the Strategy the Committee agreed:

- (1) *That the Strategy be updated and include a reference to the review.*
- (2) *That Political Leadership be included as a priority in the Strategy as a project area and that Officers investigate how the induction and support for Cabinet Members could be improved upon.*
- (3) *That the Strategy include :*
 - (a) *A section on one to one interviews.*
 - (b) *Statutory training for Regulatory Committees that arises throughout the year.*
 - (c) *Information about the Member training budget and conferences.*
- (4) *That Community Engagement be included in the Strategy as a priority and a further project area.*
- (5) *That Cabinet be consulted on improving support for Cabinet Members and how this could be achieved.*
- (6) *That the two Cabinet Members who had recently stepped down be offered exit interviews.*

- (7) *That the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change be requested to circulate a briefing note on the Council's position on the issue, followed by a briefing session if there was demand.*
- (8) *That a link be included on the Council's internet giving details on the measures the Council has in place regarding climate change locally.*
- (9) *That the Head of Democratic Services provide details of what is expected of Group Administrators.*
- (10) *That Group Administrators be copied into correspondence on training courses identified for Members of their political party.*
- (11) *That a list of Members by political party who have not undertaken a one to one interview be sent to Group Administrators.*
- (12) *That the Committee submit a report to full Council asking Council to consider making Equality training mandatory for all Members*

It was agreed that the draft revised Strategy would be considered by the Committee at its September meeting.

Attached at Appendix A is the draft Member Development Strategy revised in accordance with Members' decisions above.

Members are requested to adopt the amended Member Development Strategy or make further amendments as required.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report. There is a budget of £10,700 in 2008/09 for Member training and development and the priorities set out in the Strategy are used to determine appropriate allocation of that funding.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal have been consulted and have no further comments to make.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Business Committee minutes
Member Development Strategy

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