

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Member Development Strategy Review 25th June 2009

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the emerging issues from the 2009/10 Corporate Plan priorities and objectives in relation to the Member Development Strategy.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council Business Committee considers the main issues that have emerged from the 2009/10 Corporate Plan priorities and objectives and whether any further priorities should be included in the Member Development Strategy.
- (2) That Members identify any project areas that have emerged from the new priorities agreed.

1.0 Introduction

At its meeting on 15th November 2007, the Council Business Committee agreed the Member Development Strategy and resolved :

“That the Strategy be reviewed again in April – May 2008 to ensure that it continues to be adequately aligned to the Council’s Corporate Priorities and that the annual review takes place at that time of year in the future.”

The Strategy was reviewed in June of last year and can be found at Appendix A. At the meeting of Council on 18th May 2009, Council agreed the Corporate Strategy for 2009/10 which includes new priorities for the Council.

2.0 Review

2.1 The four Corporate Priorities for 2009/10 are set out below :

- Support out local economy
- Clean and green places
- Safe and healthy communities
- Support our local communities

Within those four priorities there are seven objectives:-

Objective 1 Work in partnership to ensure a strategic approach to economic development and regeneration

- Objective 2 Maintain the cleanliness of our streets and public spaces.*
- Objective 3 Develop local responses to Climate Change.*
- Objective 4 Work in partnership and make our district an even safer place addressing crime and the fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour.*
- Objective 5 To contribute towards health improvement and reducing health inequalities through both the delivery of our own services and our work with partners.*
- Objective 6 To improve the standard, availability and affordability of housing in the district to meet local needs.*
- Objective 7 To work in partnership with others meet the differing needs of communities within our district.*

There is a clear message in these objectives that the Council needs to work with its partners to address these issues and this is taking place through the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership (LDLSP). As much of this work is undertaken by Cabinet Members, other Councillors may not understand the process of the LDLSP and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

A move towards partnership working in terms of delivering training and development could be a new approach to be considered. This has already begun with the sessions organised in the 2009/10 programme with the County Council.

3.0 Emerging Issues

There are 5 main issues relating to Member Development that have emerged from this document that need to be addressed and reflected in the Member Development Strategy.

3.1 Work in partnership to ensure a strategic approach to economic development and regeneration

Very little has been provided for Members on Economic Development in the district. The Corporate Director (Regeneration) provided two briefing sessions last year on Regeneration which were well received. Members could include briefings on Economic Development as part of this year's training programme and perhaps a briefing on the Vision Board.

3.2 Develop local responses for Climate Change

Members agreed last year that a link should be included on the Council's website to information on Climate Change but this is still outstanding. A briefing on Climate Change is included in the 2009/10 Training Programme in the Autumn. There is a Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group which provided an opportunity for support to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area but it has not met for over a year.

3.3 Work in partnership and make our district an even safer place addressing crime and the fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour.

To date Members have not been offered any briefings on crime or anti-social behaviour. This could be addressed by a session on the Community Safety Partnership and possibly a briefing from the Police.

3.4 To contribute towards health improvement and reducing health inequalities through both the delivery of our own services and our work with partners

Again, nothing has been offered in terms of Member Development on the health agenda as it not a Council function. A briefing from the Health Authority could be provided for Members on this issue.

3.5 To work in partnership with others meet the differing needs of communities within our district.

Councillors have been offered places on the Team Lancashire programme of events which focus on community engagement and leadership. Taster sessions have also been provided to give Councillors an insight into the different communities within our district.

Members are requested to consider any further methods of delivering community based development for the forthcoming year.

3.6 There are obviously other themes within the Corporate Plan that do not feature in specific objectives but are included either by reference in the Foreword or as additional targets. For example, included in the Foreword are references to the current economic climate and the Council's duty to generate economic development in the district and promote the area to generate new economic prospects. There are also a number of Key Corporate Indicators that measure the progress of the Council that need to be taken into consideration.

A provision to include any development needs arising from themes included in the Corporate Plan could be included in this year's Strategy.

4.0 Existing Priorities

The Strategy for 2008/09 included 9 priorities as set out below.

- Local Government Finance
- Overview and Scrutiny
- Communications (including media)
- IT training
- Decision Making Processes (including County Council functions)
- Ward and Community Leadership
- Political Leadership
- Community Engagement
- Equalities

Each priority is being addressed and is an ongoing training need with the exception of Political Leadership which as Members will recall was to begin after Annual Council 2009. Equality training is included in this year's programme and developments in training and briefings for Overview and Scrutiny continue.

Members are requested to consider whether these priorities are still relevant and should remain as priorities for 2009/10.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any training needs identified would need to be contained within the Member Development budget.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Member Development Strategy

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