

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Member Development Strategy Review 3rd September, 2009

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 2009/10.

Report

1. At its meeting on 25th June 2009 Council Business Committee reviewed the Member Development Strategy in light of the new Corporate Priorities which had been agreed at Council on 18th May 2009.
2. Following a detailed discussion on these and other aspects of the Strategy the Committee agreed:
 - (1) *That a link to the County Council website page on Climate Change be include on the Council's website.*
 - (2) *That Overview and Scrutiny and Communications be removed as priorities in the Member Development Strategy.*
 - (3) *That Equalities be incorporated in to Community Cohesion and linked with the Community Engagement priority.*
 - (4) *That Economic Development be added as a priority in the Strategy.*
 - (5) *That regular information sessions be introduced to address member development needs in relation to Council Service areas, concluding with a question and answer session and that a rolling programme be included as a priority in the Strategy.*
 - (6) *That the revised Member Development Strategy be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.*

The Strategy has been amended to reflect these recommendations.

With regard to recommendation 5, all Service Heads and Directors have been requested to identify any issues/areas of work within their Service Business Plans which could be included in the rolling programme. A programme of briefings is being prepared for inclusion within the Member Development Programme.

3. The Committee also considered the outcomes of a recent internal audit of Members Expenses and Civic Functions which had included a section on Member Development. Members considered the action plan which had resulted from this audit and agreed the following :

- *“Revision of the Member Development Strategy to set out the roles and responsibilities of key Members and how they link to Corporate Plan priorities.”*

A report on this will be considered by the Committee at its meeting in November and the Strategy will need to be amended accordingly if appropriate.

4. At its meeting on 30th June, the Audit Committee discussed the development needs of the Members for the forthcoming year. It was unanimously agreed :

- *“That Council Business Committee be asked to incorporate Audit training into the City Council’s Member Training Programme.*
- *That Council Business Committee be asked to consider establishing partnership working in relation to the Member Development Programme.”*

Audit training has been included in the Strategy and will be incorporated into the Member Development Programme.

Regarding establishing partnership working, this does already take place with Members attending sessions in Wyre, Blackpool and Preston regularly.

5. 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.

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| CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing) |
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| None arising from this report. |
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| FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS |
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| None arising directly from this report. There is a budget of £9,800 in 2009/10 for Member training and development and the priorities set out in the Strategy are used to determine appropriate allocation of that funding. |
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SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no 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

Council Business Committee minutes
Member Development Strategy

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