

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Elected Member Development Update

12th November 2009

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the Member Development Programme this year and request feedback.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee note the report and make any suggestions for the future improvement of the Member Development Programme.**

1 Events

The list attached at Appendix A shows the training events that have taken place between May to October 2009 including the Members that attended and cost of the event.

As you can see from the table, several sessions have had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Members are requested to consider how this could be rectified.

The original programme also included a number of sessions provided by Lancashire County Council. These sessions have now unfortunately been withdrawn by the County Council.

In summary a total of 33 events have taken place over the last quarter. Several Councillors have taken advantage of the shadowing an Officer opportunity ranging from visiting Salt Ayre Sports Centre to going out with an Environmental Health Officer.

2 Evaluations

Summaries of the evaluations and feedback from the some of the training sessions are attached at Appendix B. Members are asked to consider the feedback and make suggestions for improvement for future events.

3 Forthcoming training and development events

The following events are scheduled over the next few weeks:

18.11.09	Drop In IT Workshop	MTH	12 noon – 2 pm
19.11.09	Questioning Skills	LTH	6 pm – 8 pm
25.11.09	Presentation Skills	LTH	6 pm – 8 pm
03.12.09	Decision Making Process	MTH	6 pm – 7.30 pm
16.12.09	Drop In IT Workshop	MTH	12 noon – 2 pm

4 Attendance

Attendance at training or development sessions is widely spread across the political groups but there are 21 Members who have not attended any sessions of any type this year.

5 Progress with project areas

Use of IT by Members (including paperless meetings and webpages)

IT Workshops continue to be offered but take up is low. IT sessions with the external provider have proved useful to the small number of Councillors who attend.

The roll out of the laptops has been completed and all Councillors are now using Outlook again rather than the webmail system that proved problematic. Even though the security measures are more complex on the new laptops, most Councillors have found, after a few days, that it they are acceptable.

Ward and Community Leadership

With regard to Community Leadership, Team Lancashire has offered places on their Members as Community Champions Programme.

In house, we have held a Chinese Awareness session and a second Hindu session was arranged but had to be postponed at the last minute. A new date for this is being arranged. This type of event continues to be a popular delivery method for Member Development.

Members may recall that it was agreed at Council that all Councillors should be encouraged to attend Equalities training. Two Community Cohesion sessions have been held this year with 21 Councillors attending over the two dates. Equalities legislation changes over time and Members need to keep up with those changes to perform their role confidently, especially when serving on the Licensing Regulatory, Appeals and Personnel Committees, where Equalities training is mandatory. Therefore Members who have not attended Equality training since the last election will be invited to attend another session to refresh and ensure that their knowledge is current.

Cabinet Support

A report on this will be considered separately at the meeting.

6 One to Ones

The one to ones are currently being reviewed.

7 Budget

The budget is now set at £9,800 for 2009/10 with approximately £5,150 allocated to date.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The aim of Member Development is to ensure that Councillors have the skills, knowledge and support to assist in the delivery of Council priorities.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

There are no direct implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget for 2009/10 was set at £9,800 and the costs of all events for this year will be met from this budget. Any recommendations arising from this report beyond 2009/10 will have to be met from the Member Development budget.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Jenny Kay
Telephone: 01524 582065
E-mail: jkay@lancaster.gov.uk
Ref: