

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Member Development Strategy Review

24th June 2010

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the emerging issues from the 2010/13 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 2010/13 Corporate Plan priorities and objectives and whether any new priorities should be included in the Member Development Strategy.**
- (2) That the Committee consider the outstanding development needs as highlighted in the Personal Development Plan annual reviews for inclusion in the Strategy.**
- (3) That the Committee consider whether the existing priorities set in the last year's Strategy are still relevant.**
- (4) That Members identify any project areas that have emerged from the new priorities agreed.**
- (5) That Council Business Committee consider recommending to Council that Equality/Community Cohesion training be made mandatory.**

1. Introduction

At its meeting on 17th May, Council agreed the Corporate Plan 2010/13. In light of this, the Member Development Strategy should be reviewed taking into account the new priorities and objectives contained within the Corporate Plan (Appendix C). Attached at Appendix A is last year's Member Development Strategy.

2. Review

The Corporate Plan sets out 4 new Corporate Priorities for 2010/11 :

- Economic Regeneration – Supporting our Economy
- Climate Change
- Statutory Services – Meeting our Responsibilities
- Partnership Working & Community Leadership

Within these 4 Priorities are 5 key objectives :

- Energy Coast, and Environmental Technology
- Heritage & Cultural Tourism for the District , including Creative Industries and Employment
- To tackle the challenges of Climate Change
- Meet the council's statutory requirements for service delivery
- To continue to work with our partners to deliver the targets in the Sustainable Community Strategy and to bring about other improvements and efficiencies in the way that services are delivered locally.

3 Emerging Issues

(i) Economic Regeneration – Supporting our Economy

As last year, Economic Development and Regeneration continue to be a main theme in the Council's priorities. Members will recall that last year Council Business Committee set this as a priority in the Member Development Strategy. Unfortunately, due to work pressures and the recent re-structure of Council services, a date could not be set for a series of briefings on these issues.

Members need to consider if this should remain a priority for 2010/11.

A Briefing could be arranged by the LDLSP's Economic Thematic Group and also the Education, Skills and Opportunities Thematic Group to highlight the work being done by the Council and its partners on the two key objectives :

- Energy Coast, and Environmental Technology
- Heritage & Cultural Tourism for the District, including Creative Industries and Employment

The monthly Members' Briefings that the Committee have introduced could be used as a forum for this information.

(ii) Climate Change

Climate change remains a priority on this year's Corporate Plan. As yet no development opportunities have taken place relating to this issue since 2007. A Climate Change session was set up before Christmas last year but it was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Members are requested to consider if another session should be arranged or if this should wait until after next year's election.

(iii) Statutory Services – Meeting our Responsibilities

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's commitment to monitor and review all statutory services to provide assurance that minimum standards can be met. In terms of Member Development, any new information regarding Council Services can be relayed to Members through the monthly Member Briefings.

(iv) Partnership Working & Community Leadership

Continued partnership working is a strong message within the new Corporate Plan. Councillors need to be aware of the work of the LDLSP and Sustainable Community Strategy.

Budget and Performance Panel at its meeting on 8th September resolved ;

“That the Budget and Performance Panel include in its work programme regular invites to its meetings of the Chairs of the LDLSP Thematic Groups.”

Rather than holding separate briefings for Members to learn more about the work of the LDLSP, it would make sense that all Councillors are invited to attend the relevant Budget and Performance Panel meetings.

Another clear message is the need for the Council to become an ‘achieving authority’ in terms of equality under the Equality Framework for Local Government by March 2011.

It was agreed by full Council in September 2008 that :

- (1) That awareness training on equality issues be included as an essential component of all future post election Induction training for Members with update training provided should the need arise as the result of changes in legislation.
- (2) That a series of training sessions be arranged over the forthcoming year to raise Members’ awareness of equality issues and all Members be encouraged to attend this training as soon as possible.

To date since the 2007 election, 49 Councillors have undertaken this training which is an admirable 82 %. A number of committees already have this set out as a requirement of the membership which means a number of Councillors have attended as a mandatory duty to sit on certain committees.

To strengthen this aim the Committee may wish to propose that Equalities/Community Cohesion training becomes mandatory for all Councillors.

4 Priorities for 2010/11

Members are requested to consider which issues they feel are priorities arising from the Corporate Plan for this year in terms of Member Development and how these are best addressed.

Last year the following priorities were agreed :

- Local Government Finance
- IT training
- Decision Making Processes (including County Council functions)
- Ward and Community Leadership
- Political Leadership
- Community Engagement and Community Cohesion
- Economic Development
- Service Briefings

Council Business Committee is requested to consider last year’s priorities in line with this year’s Corporate Plan and agree priorities for 2010/11.

5 Outcome of Personal Development Plan (PDPs) Reviews

As part of this annual review of the Member Development Strategy, Council Business Committee need also to consider any outstanding training needs that may arise from the PDPs. Attached at Appendix B is a list of outstanding needs and the number of Members who have requested this training.

Members are requested to consider if they wish to include any of these whilst updating Strategy.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The work of Member Development supports Councillors in delivering the corporate Vision and 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 2010/11 is set at £9,900 and the costs of all events for this year will be met from within this budget allocation.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate Plan 2010-13

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