

# **COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

## **Member Development Strategy Review 2 September 2010**

### **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 2010/11.**

#### **Report**

At its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Council Business Committee reviewed the Member Development Strategy in light of the new Corporate Priorities which had been agreed at Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

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

- (1) That all Members be invited to attend Budget and Performance Panel meetings when LDLSP Thematic Group Chairmen would be speaking, to learn about the work of the Thematic Groups and how this related to the Council's priorities.
- (2) That a 'taster' session on Planning and Licensing be included in the Induction for 2011.
- (3) That the Committee recommend to Council that Community Cohesion training be made mandatory for Members every 4 years from 2011.
- (4) That the following 4 areas be agreed as Priorities for 2010/11 :
  - (i) Local Government Finance and Statutory Services
  - (ii) Community Engagement/Partnership Working and Community Leadership
  - (iii) Economic Development and Regeneration
  - (iv) Climate Change

- (5) That preparation for Induction 2011 and Level 2 of the North West Charter for Member Development be added as projects for the coming year.
- (6) That the Member Development Strategy be updated accordingly.

The Strategy has been amended to reflect these recommendations.

With regard to recommendation 3, a report was considered by full Council at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010.

Council resolved :

*“That Community Cohesion training be mandatory for all newly elected Councillors as part of the induction process with effect from May 2011 and all Councillors be encouraged to renew this training every 4 years.”*

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 £9,900 in 2010/11 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 would highlight that in the past, finance related training needs have been identified but attendance at courses has often been low. This was reported at the last meeting.

The Council has a need to ensure that its Members have a sound understanding of key finance issues; this is covered in external audits and more explicitly, in developments on particular topics - recent treasury management changes being a good example.

Given previous training offered, the availability of on-line material and in view of the development of the 2011 induction, it is not intended to push specific training courses in the coming months, other than any sessions that may be provided alongside developing the 2011/12 budget. That said, the s151 Officer would welcome more specific consideration of the Council's approach to finance training for Members as part of developing the 2011 induction and future years' strategies.

**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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