

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

13th SEPTEMBER 2012

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree a revised Member Development Strategy

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council Business Committee consider the draft Member Development Strategy for 2012/13, and refer the approved document to be endorsed at Council.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Council Business Committee is asked to agree an updated version of the Member Development Strategy on an annual basis. This is to ensure that member development work is focussed on current Corporate Plan objectives and meets the needs of members.

1.2 The 2012/13 draft is appended to this report.

2.0 Details

2.1 The new Corporate Plan maintains a clear emphasis on community leadership, and commits the Council to delivering an:

...increased number of Councillors undertaking training/development in community leadership

2.2 This objective is a key priority of the new Member Development Strategy. There have been some disappointing attendance figures at member briefing events during the last year, and the strategy aims to encourage greater participation over the course of 2012/13.

- 2.3 Increasing participation in member development will be crucial to retaining the North West Employers Organisation's (NWEO) Member Development Charter, which is currently held at Level 1 and is due for re-assessment.

At a recent meeting, Council Business Committee agreed that the council should try to retain the Charter at Level One. To be successful, the council will need to demonstrate compliance with the following six points:

- i. continued commitment to member development demonstrated at all levels across the council;
- ii. an established member development strategy to support organisational needs and overall strategy;
- iii. clarity of subject area and methods of delivery based on member needs assessments;
- iv. 75% of members having completed a personal development plan;
- v. clear communication strategy which supports member development;
- vi. a method of evaluating learning and development activities and continuous improvement.

Whilst these requirements are already largely met, members will have an important role to play in the review process. The NWEO assessors will be looking for all members to demonstrate their knowledge of the Member Development Strategy and their enthusiasm and commitment to Member Development. With this in mind, it is recommended that the Committee recommend the revised Member Development Strategy to full Council for endorsement to bring the Strategy, and the Charter review process, to the attention of all Councillors.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The revised Member Development Strategy contributes to corporate priorities by targeting an increased number of councillors participating in community leadership training. Members are reminded that this is a key document for the Charter Level One review process and are asked to consider the attached draft for approval and recommend it to Council for endorsement.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report. The funding for training events will be met from the Member Development Training budget for 2012/13 of £10,500.

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

None

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