

# COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

## MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2013/14

27<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### Report of the Democratic Services Manager

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the updated Member Development Strategy

**This report is public**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council Business Committee approves the draft Member Development Strategy for 2013/14.

##### 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 2013/14 draft is appended to this report.

##### 2.0 Details

- 2.1 This year's 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 Following on from the LGA-sponsored Keep It REAL (responsive, efficient, accountable, local) programme, there will be opportunities for councillors to improve their community leadership skills throughout 2013/14, together with a clear focus on the other Corporate Plan priorities.

- 2.3 Service Heads are holding member briefings during summer and autumn 2013 on the Corporate Plan objectives, to ensure that members are informed and consulted on the council's main priorities
- 2.4 Democratic Services recently submitted a bid to retain the North West Employers Organisation's (NWEO) Member Development Charter, which is currently held at level one and is due for re-assessment. To retain level one status, we will need to demonstrate that member development is embedded into the council's activities, and that training sessions are well supported by councillors.
- 2.5 Support for member champions is a new feature of this year's strategy, and has been introduced in light of the appointment of champions for children and young people, older people, and a champion for veterans.
- 2.6 Member champions will help the council to meet a wide range of policy targets, and can encourage serious consideration of their subject area in various council meetings and other activities. Democratic Services will work with each champion to ensure that they are well supported and have access to development opportunities relevant to their role.

### **3 Conclusion**

- 3.1 The revised Member Development Strategy contributes to corporate priorities with a strong focus on community leadership, whilst providing an all round programme to improve councillors' knowledge and skills.

<p><b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b></p>
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<p><b>(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)</b></p>
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<p>None arising from this report.</p>
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<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>
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<p>Associated costs will be met from the member development budget.</p>
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<p><b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b></p>
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<p>Given the financial challenges that the Council is facing, the s151 Officer would encourage the Committee to consider whether any specific training needs exist and should be catered for as part of this Strategy. This is in support of Council developing a financially sustainable corporate plan and budget for the future. This links clearly with community leadership.</p>
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<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>
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<p>There are no legal implications arising from this report.</p>
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**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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