

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2014/15

26th June 2014

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the Member Development Strategy 2014/15.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council Business Committee considers the content of the Member Development Strategy for 2014/15 (draft attached) for approval.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Council Business Committee is asked to review and 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 2014/15 draft is appended to this report.

2 Details

- 2.1 The vision, ethos and priorities which will inform this year's Corporate Plan are essential to the Member Development Strategy. As agreed at Council on 26th February 2014, the revised Corporate Plan will maintain a clear emphasis on:
 - i. clean, green and safe places;
 - ii. community leadership;
 - iii. health and wellbeing; and
 - iv. sustainable economic growth.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is fundamental to the Member Development Strategy, and member training events will be programmed to ensure that councillors receive all the information they need on each aspect of the Corporate Plan. It is expected that the Corporate Plan 2014-16 will go to full Council for approval on 16th July 2014.
- 2.3 In a recent assessment for level one of the Member Development Charter, the North West Employers Organisation (NWEO) commented that the Member Development Strategy successfully reflected the Corporate Plan, and provided a strong focus on

community leadership and supporting the council's Corporate Plan authorities. This is something which member development officers, together with Council Business Committee, should seek to build on this year.

- 2.4 Following their assessment, the NWEO concluded that the city council was compliant with the requirements of the Member Development Charter (level one) and accordingly awarded a certificate of retention in November 2013. However, the assessors felt that more could be done to incorporate the views of councillors in the planning, delivery and evaluation of member development. As such, a major focus of this year's draft Member Development Strategy is to increase councillors' participation in shaping the member development offer.
- 2.5 By developing a more member-led approach, largely through Council Business Committee, it is hoped that councillors can drive engagement by championing the importance of gaining knowledge and improving skills and behaviours.
- 2.6 With local elections approaching in 2015, the induction programme for new and returning councillors is another important element of this year's Member Development Strategy. Work will begin in the new year on the induction, and it will be important to consult Council Business Committee on the planning and management of events.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The revised Member Development Strategy contributes to corporate priorities, and focusses on increasing member engagement to improve councillors' knowledge and skills.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The members' training budget for 2014/15 is £4,100 and it is expected that any training and development costs will be contained within this budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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