

DECISION-MAKER:	STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 APRIL 2011		
REPORT OF:	SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

N/A

SUMMARY

This report gives an overview of Member learning and development during the last year and provides information on the Member Development Plan for 2011-2012. Members are invited to comment on any aspect of the Member learning and development in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) Standards and Governance Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.
- (ii) The Committee is also invited to consider and endorse the Member Development priorities.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Standards and Governance Committee is responsible for overseeing and managing programmes of guidance, advice and training on ethics, standards and probity for Councillors and employees, and on the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.
2. To provide a progress report on the three year Member Development Strategy introduced in 2009 and an opportunity for the Committee to make recommendations for the future.

CONSULTATION

- 3 Member Development is based on consultation with relevant Members and officers, including the Member User Group, which has responsibility for the strategic direction and evaluation of Member Development, Group Leaders and the Chief Officer Management Team. Feedback from surveys and from individual Members is also taken into account.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 4 None. Standards and Governance Committee has requested annual reports on Member learning and development.

DETAIL

5 Member Development Strategy-2010-2013

The priorities set for Member Development were included in the Member Development Strategy 2010-2013 and related action plan (Appendix 1).

6. Localism Bill

The Member Development Plan will need to be amended to take account of changes and demands on Members that result from the Localism Bill which is expected to be enacted in the Autumn.

7. The Bill covers four broad areas:

- strengthening local democracy;
- community empowerment;
- reform of the planning system; and
- social housing reform

8. The Localism Bill includes a number of areas that may require Member Development particularly in relation to their role as elected representatives such as the revocation of the Members' Code of Conduct, and changes to the rules on pre-determination and bias.

9. Given that the detail of the Act is not yet known it is suggested that the following objective be included:

“To take ongoing actions to review and assess the changing roles of Members in relation to the Localism Act and other legislation affecting the roles and responsibilities of Members”.

10 Local Elections

Planning has commenced for the local elections on the 5th May 2011. The draft Member Induction Programme is being developed (Appendix 2).

It is anticipated that sessions on the Localism Bill will be added to the programme as the detail of the legislation becomes clearer.

11. The Member Development Strategy together with the Member Induction Programme will also need to be reviewed in light of any changes to the Political make up of the Council resulting in May.

12. Members of Standards and Governance committee are invited to comment on any aspect of Member learning and development, including recommendations to be included in the revised Member Development Strategy.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

13. N/A

Revenue

14. N/A

Property

15. N/A

Other

16. N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

17. Section 111 Local Government Act 1972

Other Legal Implications:

18. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Member Development Strategy - 2010- 2013
2.	Member Induction Programme May-September 2011

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: None **KEY DECISION?** No