

DECISION-MAKER:	STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBER DEVELOPMENT		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 APRIL 2010		
REPORT OF:	SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

This report gives an overview of Member learning and development and a progress report on the 3-year Member Development Strategy. 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) Standards and Governance Committee is requested to consider progress made on the action plan in the Member Development Strategy for 2009-2010 and make recommendations for future 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 3-year Member Development Strategy introduced in 2009-2010 and opportunity for Standards and Governance 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, who have responsibility for the strategic direction and evaluation of Member Development.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 4 None. Standards and Governance Committee have requested annual reports on Member Learning and Development.

DETAIL

- 5 The priorities for Member learning and development were detailed in the

Member Development Strategy 2009-2012 and related Action Plan (Appendix 1).

6. An internal audit review of Member development has recently taken place in relation to the Annual Governance Statement. The report is currently being finalised and it is expected that the recommendations will be available for consideration at the Standards and Governance meeting.
7. Whilst there were no local elections in May 2009, two new Cabinet Members were appointed by the Leader of the Council in June and an induction programme was developed by senior officers in Children's Services and Learning in liaison with Members' Services. The programme included personal development planning, IDeA peer mentoring and the opportunities to attend relevant courses and seminars, as well as in-house training, briefings and visits to services and schools.
8. During the year, Chairs of committees have strengthened their involvement in the training and development of committee and other members. As an example, the Chair of Planning and Rights of Way Panel introduced a programme of short training session to follow on from panel meetings and this has now been incorporated into the Member Development programme for 2010-2011. Other training recommended by Cabinet Members and Chairs of Committees has also been included in the programme, in particular sessions on Safeguarding Children and Corporate Parenting and a CIPFA workshop on understanding local government accounts (outline programme for 2010-2011 included as Appendix 2)
9. The level of attendance at training sessions can vary depending on the topic, timing and Members' experiences and commitments. Concerns have been raised about low attendance at some specific sessions and ways to enhance attendance will be discussed at the next meeting of the Member User Group.
10. 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

N/A

Revenue

N/A

Property

N/A

Other

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

Section 111 Local Government Act 1972

Other Legal Implications:

None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Member Development Strategy 2009-2012
2.	Outline programme for Member Development 2010

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	
2.	

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.		
2.		

Background documents available for inspection at:

KEY DECISION? n/a

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	none
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