

# Report



Meeting: COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: 13 December 2007

Agenda Item Number:

## **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER**

### **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To update Council, as agreed in June 2007, on the progress of the Member Development Strategy and Programme.

#### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1. At the Council Meeting on 28 June 2007 Members agreed the Member Development Strategy attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2. The Development Needs Analysis Forms were sent to Members on 2 July 2007. Response rates were initially slow, however, the eventual number of completed forms was 48, a 72% return.
- 2.3. Members were requested within the forms to indicate whether they felt their need for training in the areas indicated was High, Medium or Low.
- 2.4. 42% of those responding indicated that they had a High need for development and training in the area of 'Working with Communities' 30% indicated a high need for development in 'Confident speaking', with 29% indicating high needs for training in 'Managing a Public Meeting'.
- 2.5. The Head of Law & Democracy in conjunction with the Service Director (Human Resources) is working on producing a detailed training programme to commence from 1 April 2008 for the financial year 2008/09. This programme will be considered by the Member Reference Group for the Member Support Programme and

subsequently approved by Administration Committee. It is proposed that each Member will be able to choose up to four training development opportunities from this programme without the individual approval of Administration Committee to each event. Quarterly reports will be provided to Administration Committee reporting on take up and feedback from the programme.

- 2.6. In addition to the Individual Training Programme Members will be aware that four dates were set aside in the Council diary for the year 2007 – 2008 specifically for Member Training.
- 2.7. The first date of 21 November 2007 was used for a Seminar on Corporate Manslaughter. Unfortunately the number of members attending was low and no cabinet members were able to attend. However, those attending stated in their feedback forms that they found the seminar interesting and useful.
- 2.8. For the remaining three dates in the diary and in accordance with preferences indicated in the Development Needs Analysis Forms, the following programme is suggested:-

7 February 2008 - Community Engagement  
17 April 2008 - Confident Speaking  
3 July 2008 - Managing a Portfolio and Executive Functions

Members views are sought on this programme.

- 2.9. It is intended that all 3 of the above sessions will be undertaken by external providers. In the case of the Community Engagement session, it is proposed that the consultant trainer used by LGEM to present a similar course on their Councillor Development Programme be approached to undertake this session.
- 2.10. In addition to the above all members have now attended training in the New Code of Conduct. Several members also attended a recent briefing session on Risk Management.

### **3. Statutory & Policy Implications**

- 3.1. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

### **4. Recommendations**

It is recommended:

- 4.1. That Members note the progress made in relation to the Member Development Strategy.
- 4.2. That Members comment on and if possible agree the suggested programme for the next three diared training days.
- 4.3. That Members note the proposals in respect of the individual training programme.

#### **Legal Services Comments**

#### **Director of Resources Financial Comments**

#### **Background Papers**

Completed Development Needs Analysis Forms

#### **Electoral Divisions Affected**

All