

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING PANEL
2. Date:	16th February 2012
3. Title:	NEW MEMBER INDUCTION 2012
4. Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

This report asks Members to consider draft proposals for the induction Programme for newly elected Members in 2012.

6. Recommendations

- a. That Members receive this report and comment on the proposals for new Member induction 2012.**

7. Proposals and Details

A comprehensive induction programme for newly Elected Members is delivered following each local election. The aim of the induction programme is to help new Members familiarise themselves with the authority and their new role and covers three main areas:

- Getting to know the Council
- Getting to know your Area
- Getting to know your Role

The Member Development Training Panel has an input into the content and delivery of the induction programme to ensure that it meets the needs of newly Elected Members and those Members with new roles / responsibilities.

As with previous years, lead members will be invited to make an input to relevant sessions.

All newly Elected Members will receive an induction pack after the election. This provides valuable information on the day to day running of the Council, the support services available, contact details of support staff and a copy of the Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID) Guide for New Councillors.

As part of the preparation for 2012 induction process for new members, the MTDP is asked to consider and comment on the draft programme, attached as Appendix A. Please note, the timings of the programme have not yet been considered. Feedback from the 2011 cohort of members will also be used to inform timings and content.

Their comments include:

- ensuring that the induction process minimises disruption for working members (if possible).
- briefings on Council services – key functions and contact points
- greater input on e-casework and how to deal with surgeries

Alongside 'in-house' programmes, the LGA is planning a 'New Councillor Roadshow'. Details are to be confirmed but these are likely to be regional events, running in either July or September. There is also the possibility of other regional and sub-regional events being organised to complement local input. It further details of planned events will be provided to a future meeting.

8. Finance

The cost of running the Induction process will be met through the Member Development budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

If there is no Induction programme, new Members will have to learn their way round the council by 'trial and error'. Induction will allow Members to make an early contribution to the work of the council and so represent their local communities more effectively.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Ensuring that newly elected members are briefed and equipped to carry out their important democratic and community roles is no easy task. But it is one that needs to be carried out effectively if we are to build the skills and capacity of Members as part of our corporate priorities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Member Development Strategy (2011)
Member induction programme (2011)
Discussions with members elected in 2011

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Draft Programme:

APPENDIX A

Getting to know the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and intro to Rotherham (Leader of the Council & Chief Executive)• How the Council Works - Council structures and key contacts• Introduction to Planning• Introduction to Licensing• Emergency Planning Training• The Councillors' Code of Conduct• Finding your way round the Annual Meeting and Full Council
Getting to know your area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your Role as a Ward Councillor - including role of Area Assembly• Tour of borough
Getting to know your role	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What I wish I'd known when I first got elected• Allowances & other financial matters• Member support – What we can offer to Members• Understanding scrutiny• Getting the Most from IT: Emails to Facebook• Using e-casework and surgeries• Corporate Parenting - Is it good enough for your child? – The councillor's key role as a corporate parent• Localism Act Briefings