

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>MEMBER DEVELOPMENT &amp; TRAINING PANEL</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Draft Spring Programme 2012</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

**5. Summary**

This report asks Members to consider an outline member development programme for Spring 2012.

**6. Recommendations**

**That members:**

- a. Receive this report and comment on the proposals for the Spring Programme 2012**
- b. Receive a further report on progress to its next meeting**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

7.1 The Elected Member Development Programme recognises the different roles of Members and the needs that arise with changes at a national, regional, sub regional and local level.

At its last meeting the MDTP requested that a draft programme be submitted to its next meeting. Members have previously agreed that programmes will be based on local priorities as identified in the Council's corporate plan and Members individual skills needs identified in the personal development planning process.

7.2 An initial round of personal development interviews took place in summer 2011. Those members who have not recently undertaken a review are being targeted, (with a promising take-up). Issues emerging from these and earlier interviews will inform the programme. Request for general development activities include:

- community leadership and use of social media
- public speaking
- updates on legislation and new Local Government agenda (eg Localism Act and Health and Social Care Bill)
- questioning skills for scrutiny
- chairing skills
- understanding local government finance

7.3 The programme will include sessions on the three agreed areas for mandatory training for members;

- corporate parenting
- safeguarding (adult and children)
- emergency planning

7.4 A detailed programme will be finalised once the budget for member development and training has been agreed. This will be circulated to all Members, supplemented by additional bulletins as development opportunities arise. The programme will incorporate a blended approach to Member Development, using a variety of methods of delivery, including bespoke training, e-learning and use of the Member Seminar Programme. This will suit the needs of different learners, as well as make learning more accessible to Members. It will also compliment the induction programme for new members, commencing in May 2012.

7.5 Based on the review of learning needs and the outcomes of PDPs, Council priorities and other emerging issues, the programme is likely to comprise of the following.

<b>Need</b>	<b>Key areas</b>
<b>ROLE SPECIFIC</b>	
Ward/ individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case work/ E-case work</li> <li>• Emergency Planning</li> <li>• Health and Safety</li> <li>• Chairing meetings</li> <li>• The role of Councillors as corporate parents</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• Ethical frameworks</li> <li>• Understanding the 'new' local government agenda (localism, health, policing)</li> <li>• Role of councillors as community leaders – working in your ward/ Area Assembly</li> </ul>
Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Finance and budgets</li> <li>• Familiarity with areas of responsibility</li> <li>• Understanding the 'new' local government agenda – related to portfolios and leadership roles</li> </ul>
Overview and Scrutiny Select commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairing meetings</li> <li>• Effective questioning</li> <li>• Localism</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Health reforms</li> <li>• Performance management and self regulation</li> </ul>
Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on new legislation/ developments relevant to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Licensing</li> <li>– Planning</li> <li>– Standards</li> <li>– Audit Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation on other bodies</li> <li>• Working in the community</li> </ul>

<b>Need</b>	<b>Key areas</b>
ICT and inter- personal Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New forms of media and electronic communications</li> <li>• Utilisation of all forms of technology</li> <li>• Social media and community leadership</li> <li>• Handling the media/public speaking</li> <li>• Handling difficult situations</li> </ul>

- 7.6 Briefings on the Localism Act have been scheduled in late February/ March. These will cover some of the key governance issues and specific issues for housing. These are as follows:

Localism Act: Governance            28 February 2.00-4.00  
(with an option of running a further one on 13 March depending on interest)

Localism Act: Housing:                20 March 5.00 – 7.00  
    21 March 2.00 – 4.00  
    28 March 10.00- 12.00

Further workshops will be scheduled focusing on other aspects of the Act and implications for services and communities, for example planning.

- 7.7 In recognition of Rotherham's status as a 'Heart Town', a national initiative to raise awareness about heart disease and healthier lifestyles, the British Heart Foundation is offering some CPR training for up to 15 members. This session will be run on 6 March 2.00-4.30pm.

- 7.8 In previous years, relevant sessions have been open to parish councillors and co-optees on overview and scrutiny select commissions and independent members on the Standards Boards. It is proposed that this practice continues, subject to demand and availability of resources.

- 7.9 It should be noted that over the previous 12 months, local activity has been complemented by events supported by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme, either on a regional or sub-regional basis. This activity will cease at the end of March 2012. We are exploring whether there is scope for commissioning some shared training activities with other authorities or bodies to achieve economies of scale. The outcomes of these discussions will be reported to a future meeting.

## **8. Finance**

All activity is funded through the Member Development and Training Budget. Depending on the level of demand or emerging needs, a further reprioritisation of resources by MTDP may need to take place

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Member Development Strategy aims to train and equip Rotherham MBC Members to take on the duties of the modern local councillor. Failure to put a comprehensive programme in place may limit the opportunity for councillors to develop their abilities and skills, which will in the long term, impact negatively on the effectiveness of the Council as a whole.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Local government has faced unprecedented change and previous over the previous two years. The member development programme should assist Members to understand the implications of these changes and learn to adapt to new ways of working. The programme will reflect legislative and policy developments as they emerge.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Member Development Strategy (2011)

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