

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING PANEL
2. Date:	21st June 2012
3. Title:	Member Development Activities – June onwards
4. Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

This report asks Members to comment on the current and planned programme (2012/13).

6. Recommendations

That members:

- a. Receive this report and comment on the current and planned programme for 2012-13**
- 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.

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. 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.

7.2 A detailed programme was put together as part of the induction for new members (which was circulated and open to all members). This has been developed and

delivered using in-house officer resources. This has meant that a minimal demand has been placed on the Member Development budget. (Please note that a report outlining the evaluation of the induction programme will be submitted to the Panel's next meeting.)

- 7.3 An initial round of personal development interviews took place in Autumn 2011, focussing on members elected last year. Interviews with those elected in 2012 are now being scheduled.

A generic programme is being developed based on issues emerging from earlier PDPs and matters arising from the induction programme. These include:

- community leadership and use of social media (scheduled for July 2012)
- public speaking
- updates on legislation and new Local Government agenda (eg Localism Act and Health and Social Care Act and Welfare Reform)
- questioning skills for scrutiny
- chairing skills (scheduled for 19 June)
- handling the media
- equality and diversity

Dates are to be confirmed and will be circulated to members in due course.

- 7.4 In addition, the recent induction programme has included sessions on the three recommended areas for mandatory training for members;

- corporate parenting
- safeguarding (adult and children)
- emergency planning (to be rescheduled)

It is likely that repeat sessions will be run on each of these areas later in the year.

- 7.5 As well as face-to-face delivery, officers are developing e-learning resources. This includes access to modules on:

- induction
- community
- leadership
- media

A member web-page is being developed on the intranet which will link these modules to other resources including the regional Member Online Resource Environment, (M.O.R.E) website. This is a resource listing events, news, information and development opportunities as well as a space to network and share ideas and good practice with other members in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

An update on e-learning will be provided to the next meeting of this panel.

- 7.6 Additional bulletins on courses or training have been circulated to members as

development opportunities have arisen. This includes events supported by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme, either on a regional or sub-regional basis arise (for example Community Leadership and use of Social Media) as well as offers of places on courses organised by other authorities or bodies. These courses provide a value for money option as travel and joining costs are kept to a minimum. Details of current local courses are attached as Appendix 1.

7.7 As with previous years, every effort is made to support members in their leadership roles by meeting their specific training needs (for example Leadership Academy or bespoke programmes). As greater expense is usually attached to these courses, requests will be brought to this Panel for approval, in order that a decision can be made based on the availability of resources and existing member development priorities (or in the interim, to the Chair for his decision).

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 in recent years. The member development programme should assist Members to understand the implications of these changes and their impact on the Council and wider borough.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Member Development Strategy (2011)
Personal Development Interviews
Regional member development programmes

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Appendix 1

York City Council

Speaking in Public and Effective Presentations’.

Wednesday 27th June from **2pm to 4.30pm** at **The Guildhall, York, YO1 9QN**. The course is also open to Members in other Local Authorities across the Region at a cost of £50 per head.

Bradford City Council

Wednesday 27th June ((16.00-18.00) Ian Fifield is presenting on **Effective Audit Committees 2012** update, which will look at how the Audit Committee can add value in these challenging times (£60 per head)

Tuesday 3rd July the third Leeds Bradford **Planning series** (09.30.13.30) will take place, this interactive, modular programme for Planning Committee Members will focus on Planning reform-the latest, Conservation and Heritage and will also have a module for Members new to Planning Committee. A great networking opportunity and supportive materials/handouts (£85)

30th October (17.30-19.30) we have an event for all Members on **Safeguarding Adults and Children**. Working with a leading drama company-Collingwood Learning we will equip Members across the region with the awareness and knowledge to identify and respond effectively to a safeguarding issue. (£60)

Leeds City Council FREE

Investing in Local Economic Growth – Workshop for Lead Councillors

10am-4pm, Monday 2nd July 2012, Well Met Conference, Leeds

The session will explore:

- new relationships, such as Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)
- new financial mechanisms available to councils
- improving people’s skills to compete in a global economy (rather than a concentration on physical regeneration programmes).
- how councils to create the conditions for local economic growth

South Yorkshire Secretariat (on behalf of South Yorkshire Councils)

FREE

Being an Effective Community Leader” (including Social Media)

Wednesday 11 July 2012, 1.00 – 4.00 pm (Lunch 12.30 pm)

The session will explore

- What the Localism Act means for you as an Elected Member.
- The growing role for Members as leaders within a local area.
- How digital tools (social media etc) can be used to help Members deal with issues within their own communities.
- Help Members to raise their profile and, more importantly, help save them time.