

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING PANEL
2. Date:	10th September 2012
3. Title:	Member Development Activities – Autumn Programme 2012
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**
- b. That a further report be submitted to this panel on the training and support requirements for Members in relation to the Disadvantaged Areas and Families for Change initiatives.**

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

- Media awareness and skills (see report on agenda)
- Questioning skills for scrutiny
- Localism Act 2012
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- New Standards Regime
- Emergency Planning
- Introduction to Local Government Finance
- Understanding Council priorities
- Health and well-being agenda
- Deprivation: the Rotherham picture

7.3 Dates are being finalised for these sessions and will be circulated shortly. Additional bulletins on courses or training will be circulated to members as development opportunities arise.

7.4 In addition to the above sessions, following a presentation on the Disadvantaged Areas and Families for Change agendas, the Improving Lives Select Commission requested, that the training and support requirements of Members (both executive and non-executive) relating to these initiative be referred to the Member's Development and Training Panel for further consideration.

8. Finance

All activity is funded through the Member Development and Training Budget. The majority of development sessions are offered in-house, however if specialist skills or equipment are required, an external provider may be sought. The budget is monitored regularly and 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
Evaluation of Induction Programme (10 Sept 2012)
Improving Lives Select Commission 11 July 2012

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