
REPORT OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Reason for this Report

1. To consider the WLGA Continuing Professional Development for Councillors Competency Framework as part of the objective setting for the Member Development Programme for 2015/16.
2. To nominate Members to the Member Development Steering Group set up as part of the Member Development Strategy to review and evaluate the 2014/15 programme and design and propose a Member Development Programme for 2015/16.

Background

3. The Democratic Services Committee 11 June 2014 approved the Member Development Strategy and proposed schedule of Member Development sessions for 2014/15
4. The key aim of the Member Development Strategy is to ensure that there is support in place for every Elected Members to enable them to acquire and develop knowledge and a full range of skills to support their many roles as Community Leaders and representatives of the Council.
5. The Member Development Strategy identified the following key themes:
 - Frontline Councillor – including Community Leadership and engagement;
 - Corporate Governance and legislation including business essentials sessions on Safeguarding; Data Protection;
 - The Networked Councillor making effective use of ICT and Social Media,
 - Scrutiny and Challenge
 - Personal Skill Development e.g. Charing Skills;
 - Induction Programme and Mentoring.

Competency Framework

6. The WLGA Continuing Professional Development for Councillors Competency Framework (Appendix 1) sets out the range of skills and knowledge required by Members. It provides a 'curriculum' of areas that authorities can consider when developing local strategies on Member Development including generic and specific competencies.
7. Many of these competencies form part of the key themes identified in the Member Development Strategy as set out above.

Programme Development

7. It is proposed that the Member Development Steering Group be made up of:
 - Three Members of the Democratic Services Committee (including the Chair);
 - One Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee;

and that a meeting be arranged in April to develop the programme for Members for 2015/16.

8. The Steering Group will review and evaluate feedback from sessions held in 2014/15; review the delivery and learning approaches to ensure that these meet Members expectations and requirements; consider the scheduling and frequency of training.
9. Members should note that the Member Development Programme would be complimented by Member briefings on emerging issues.

Legal Implications

10. The relevant requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 are referred to in the body of this report. There are no other direct legal implications arising from the content of this report.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report with any costs associated with development and support being met from existing resources.

Recommendations

1. the feedback on the WLGA Continuing Professional Development for Councillors Competency Framework be used to inform the preparation of the 2015/16 Member Development Programme;
2. Three Member be nominated to the 2015/16 Member Development Steering Group to meet in April to design and propose the Member Development Programme for next 12 months.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
COUNTY CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER
19 March 2015

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A: WLGA Continuing Professional Development for Councillors

Background Papers

Member Development Strategy 11 June 2014
WLGA National Member Development Strategy 2014-17