



AGENDA ITEM: 11

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

2 OCTOBER 2007

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor and Human Resources Manager

Contact for further information: Cathryn Jackson (Extn. 5016)

SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise on the progress made in member development during the previous twelve months.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the report be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 At its meeting on 6 July 2006 the Internal Review Committee considered the progress of the work of the Member Development Commission. Members commented on the importance of member development and the continuing work of the Commission. Feedback from that meeting was presented to the Commission in August 2006.

3.2 The Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee (previously known as the Internal Review Committee) are kept informed of the work of the Member Development Commission through the Notes of its meetings.

3.3 The terms of reference of the Member Development Commission as set out in its Project Plan are reviewed at each meeting of the Commission and updated, as necessary, to reflect the work of the Commission.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 During the previous twelve months elected members have attended training sessions covering a variety of subjects related to their role as elected members and community leaders.

4.2 Training events for Members have been organised locally in relation to the following:

- The Gambling Act
- Code of Conduct (Annual event)
- Equality/Diversity

4.3 Elected Members have also taken the opportunity to attend events, organised internally, covering emerging legislation and related areas of interest including:

- The new planning obligations
- Climate Change
- Visit to ASB Unit and MAPS Team
- Substance Abuse Presentation
- Rural Economy Study Presentation
- Housing Green Paper

4.4 Additionally elected members have taken the opportunity to attend external conferences and courses facilitated by a number of external training providers including North West Employers, the Local Government Association (LGA); North-West Improvement Network (Nwin); Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (I&DeA) and Institute of Local Government (Inlogov) linked to their particular area of interest and attended in accordance with the protocol for members attending development events. Topics covered have included:

- Rail network
- Chairing Scrutiny
- Group Leaders
- Rural Communities
- The role of Civic Heads
- Local Government White Paper
- Leadership
- New Political Man
- Future Homes
- Planning
- Sustainable Communities
- Extended Services in Schools

4.5 Support to Members and assistance with the information technology has been provided through the ICT section and the ICT and e-Government Manager provides an update at the Commission meetings on progress in relation to ICT Training for Members.

- 4.6 The Human Resources and Training Officer also provides regularly updates on other training developments and has made progress in relation to the Identification of Training Needs (ITN) for Members.
- 4.7 Additionally as part of its monitoring role of member development the Commission receives oral feedback at its meetings from the Groups through the Member Development Group representatives.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Development of elected members in their role as effective community leaders is important and the training undertaken by members in the previous twelve months reflects the Council's commitment towards Member training and its response to emerging legislation.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 On-going member development gives support to members in discharging their responsibilities and in their wider community role.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no significant financial and resource implications arising from this report other than officer time in dealing with these matters.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

9.0 SUMMARY

- 9.1 The report gives an overview of the progress to date in relation to member development and Members are asked to note that progress.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.