

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD: 7 APRIL 2011**  
Start: 7.30pm  
Finish: 8.40pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Greenall (Chairman)  
Councillor Ms Melling (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: Baldock Hennessey  
Grice

Officers: Member Services Manager (Mr G Martin)  
Principal Overview & Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

**19. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J A Roberts.

**20. SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions.

**21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

**22. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Member Development Commission held on 22 February 2011 be noted.

**23. FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN NORTH WEST CHARTER ON ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

The Member Services Manager introduced the item which had been placed on the agenda for consideration following the presentation at the last meeting of the Commission by the Member Development Gateway Advisor North West Employers.

Members discussed the merits of pursuing the North West Charter on Elected Member Development and concluded that, whilst it was laudable to strive for the award, the focus at present should fundamentally be supporting Member training and development practically. The Commission recognised that there would be resource implications both in cost, Member and Officer time in order to satisfy the requirements of the Charter Award and concluded that involvement in the North West Charter should be suspended for the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED: That involvement in the North West Charter on Elected Member Development be suspended.

**24. MEMBER TRAINING 2010/11 - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director Designate (Council Secretary and Solicitor), as contained on pages 95 to 98 of the Book of Reports, which provided an update on the training undertaken by Members during 2010/11.

Members discussed the report and the types of training/development that Councillors had accessed throughout the year.

In discussion the following comments were noted:

- The success of in-house training undertaken. Of particular note was the “bite-size” development sessions that had been offered prior to meetings, for example, Standards and Audit and Governance Committees.
- Evaluation of Feedback, where available, from the courses undertaken.
- Course participation via Video Conferencing.

The preparations for the Induction for New Councillors post May elections were discussed and in this respect it was suggested that a more informal, practical induction session should be offered which would allow more interaction and provide an introduction to the various services covered by the Council. One suggestion was to hold a type of “Speed Dating” session, perhaps at the Civic Hall.

The Member Services Manager undertook to raise the Member’s idea and feedback as appropriate. Supplementary information in relation to participation in courses, as set out in the Appendix, was also requested.

The Member Services Manager also undertook to gather information in relation to using video conferencing as a way of accessing training events which offered that facility.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

**26. MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director Designate (Council Secretary and Solicitor) as contained on pages 99 to 107 of the Book of Reports relating to the Member Training and Development Strategy.

In discussing the draft Strategy reference was made to the following:

- Training and Development Priorities
- Induction training for new Members
- The future role of Lancashire County Council (LCC) Member Development Unit post May 2011 Elections
- The monitoring role of the Commission
- Opportunities to access training events via video conferencing.

In considering the draft Strategy it was felt that the decision to agree the Strategy should be deferred and that it should be considered again at the next meeting of the Commission, once the involvement of LCC's Member Development Unit, if any, was known.

RESOLVED: That the draft Member Training and Development Strategy, attached as Appendix 1, be noted and considered at the next meeting of the Commission.

**27. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12**

Members considered the Work Programme as circulated and contained on page 109 of the Book of Reports.

It was noted that the item Progress on North West Charter on Elected Member Development, listed for consideration at the June/July, would be deleted following the decision as detailed at Minute 23 and the items Member Training and Development Strategy and Induction Training for New Members – Update were to be added to the Commission's Work Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be confirmed.

**28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be advised following appointment of the Commission's Chairman for 2011/12.