

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Blake (Chairman)

Councillors: Ashcroft
Dowling
Pye

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed New Members to the Commission.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. SUBSTITUTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Commission noted the termination of Membership of Councillor Mrs R Evans and the appointment of Councillor Ashcroft for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the political group.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

In consideration of the Minutes (Minute 37 Training Events) a further request was raised for information on the explanation of acronyms and reference numbers used in Planning applications and associated reports.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Member Development Commission held on 27 February 2014 be noted.
 - B. That the request for explanatory information in relation to acronyms and reference numbers related to Planning matters be forwarded to the Assistant Director Planning.

5. MEMBER TRAINING - SUMMARY OF EVENTS FEBRUARY 2014 TO PRESENT

Members considered the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 5 to 9 of the Book of Reports, which provided an update on Member training undertaken since February 2014.

The good feedback from the Planning Propriety and Good Practice event held in July was noted. In addition, Members were advised that the Planning Services offered 'one to one' sessions for 'new' Members of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

6. MEMBER INDUCTION 2014

Members considered the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 11 to 21 of the Book of Reports, which provided feedback on the induction process offered to newly elected Members in June 2014.

In discussion an enquiry was made in regard to possible “training” for prospective candidates. In response it was explained that prospective candidates receive details of training they can expect to undertake, if successful. The LGA is also a good source of information for prospective and successful candidates.

Members agreed that a training event on ‘Chairman’s Skills’ would be useful.

During feedback it was reported that ‘new’ Members had not received the LGA ‘New Councillor Guide 2014/15’. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer made an undertaking to contact LGA regarding this matter.

- RESOLVED: A. That it be recommended that a training session on Chairmanship Skills be arranged, subject to feedback from the Groups.
- B. That the report be noted.

7. FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Members were asked if feedback from the Groups in relation to training identified, be passed to Member Services.

In relation to the request for ‘Chairmanship Skills’ training, Member Development representatives stated that they would put this suggestion forward to the next Group meetings and feed back to Member Services.

It was also suggested that more in-depth Planning training especially to fit in with the National Framework and Local Policies would be useful.

The Commission also recognised that North West Employers (NWE) are keen to develop well trained Councillors, and discussed the possibility of a representative attending a future meeting of the Commission. It was reported that North West Employer’s Training information Programmes and other events offered by them are circulated by e-mail to Members.

- RESOLVED: A. That the request for further Planning training be passed to the Assistant Director Planning.
- B. That the request for a representative from NWE to attend a future meeting be explored.
- C. That the feedback be noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/2015

Members considered the Work Programme as circulated on page 23 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED That the Work Programme be noted.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed.

RESOLVED That the next meeting of the Member Development Commission be held on 12 March 2015, subject to confirmation with the Chairman.