

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD: 13 OCTOBER 2011
Start: 7.30pm
Finish: 8.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Greenall (Chairman)

Councillors: Baldock Mrs Houlgrave

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

11. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

12. SUBSTITUTIONS (IF ANY)

There were no substitutions.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Member Development Commission held on 14 July 2011 be noted.

15. UPDATE OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY - LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Member Services Manager provided an update in relation to member development involvement with Lancashire County Council (LCC).

He reported that since the previous meeting of the Commission Members had participated in training organised by LCC including Equalities Training and a workshop on Understanding Scrutiny.

He further reported that it was understood that the Learning and Development Service, HR Consultancy of which Member Development is a part was now with One Connect Ltd. It was not known whether the change would affect further access to LCC's Member training activities. It was agreed that this would be further explored and be reported to the next meeting of the Commission.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

16. TRAINING EVENTS

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that information related to training/information events is regularly circulated via email in accordance with the Protocol for Members attending Courses/Conferences and provided an update on events undertaken by Members between July 2011 and October 2011.

It was reported that Members had taken the opportunity to attend information sessions provided internally by service areas in relation to the introduction of "zone" system for domestic waste collection, wind turbines and renewable energy. Attendance at external training in the period included an event organised by NWE0 in respect of Developments in Local Authority Housing Finance. Unfortunately, a couple of events in relation to Bringing Funding into your Ward and Overview and Scrutiny organised by NWE0 had been cancelled. Future known applications for external training events included Delivering Community Budgets, the Future Role of LA's in Local Economies and Getting Ready for Police and Crime Commissioners.

It was further reported that interactive training, where an event held in one part of the country is transmitted to a local venue, allowing participation in the training without extensive travel, is beginning to be offered by training providers.

During discussion a Member raised the possibility of overview and scrutiny training locally. It was explained that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, which provided information on the work undertaken by the overview and scrutiny Committees over the previous twelve months, had recently been circulated. It was felt that an information session in relation to overview and scrutiny at WLBC would be useful and officers undertook to give this consideration.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

16. ITN EXERCISE - UPDATE

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported in relation to the ITN exercise that work was on-going and arrangements were being put in place to circulate a training needs questionnaire to those Members new to the Council in May 2011, with a view to compiling information on their individual training needs. This would be followed, if necessary, by a one-to-one interviews. The results from this exercise would assist in compilation of Members' Individual Training Plan.

In relation to Lancashire County Council's involvement with this process it was reported that this had now finished and that future ITN initiatives would be undertaken internally, facilitated by Member Services.

RESOLVED: That the updated be noted.

17. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

Members considered the Work Programme as circulated and contained on page 29 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be updated to include the items 'Update of Member Development Activity – LCC and 'Update on the Training Needs Questionnaire related to ITNs', for consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting, subject to confirmation, would be 16 February 2012.