



**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT
WORKING GROUP:
29 October 2024**

Report of: Chief Legal & Democratic Services Officer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Yvonne Gagen

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SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To gain approval of the proposed Councillor Development Strategy (the Strategy).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the proposed Strategy be approved.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council signed up to the principles of the Charter for Elected Member Development in 2000 and currently meets most of the criteria for the award of the Charter.

3.2 The key points of the Charter include having a Strategy to meet the training and development needs of elected members and a Programme to implement it.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Strategy explains how the council will provide councillor learning and development. It sets out our key objectives and details how we intend to achieve them. The proposed Strategy refreshes and reiterates our continuing commitment to councillor development.

4.2 A Councillor Development Programme is also in preparation and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group for approval. It will include a West Lancs Councillor Skills Framework, which will set out the various skills councillors need to carry out the different roles within the council, and will detail how councillors can acquire all the necessary skills and knowledge, including community leadership, communication skills, etc.

5.0 IMPACT

- 5.1 It is vital that our councillors constantly update their knowledge and learn new skills to enable them to play an effective role in local democracy.
- 5.2 Implementation of the Strategy will help to ensure that our elected members have the skills they need to help them provide the best possible services for the residents of West Lancs.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and no impact on crime and disorder.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOUCCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any financial/resource implications arising from this report, for example in respect of additional training sessions, will be met using existing resources.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The provision of effective councillor training reduces the risks of ill-considered or potentially illegal decision-making. Certain training requirements exist for all councillors as well as those on specific committees and must be maintained in order to remain compliant with legislation, etc.

9.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 9.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

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

Appendices

Draft Councillor Development Strategy