

Member Development Steering Group

24 November 2010

Report of the Assistant Director Legal, Governance and ITT

Annual Review of Member Training & Development Policy

Summary

1. This report asks members to consider any revisions they wish to make to the current Member Training & Development Policy.

Background

1. In October 2009 Steering Group Members approved the introduction of a Member Training & Development Policy outlining the structured approach the Council takes to developing its elected Members.
2. Establishing a Member Development Policy was a key contributor in the Council's successful bid to gain charter status and good practice states that in order to remain fit for purpose the policy should be reviewed annually.
3. The Charter for Member Development assessment report is the subject of another report on this agenda, however much credit was given in the report to York's comprehensive Member Training & Development Policy and its easy read format.

Member Training and Development Policy 2010/2011

4. Attached at Annex A is the current Member Training & Development Policy, which has now been in place for 12 months.
5. When refreshing the policy Members may wish to address some of the comments raised in the charter assessment report, in particular the following areas:
 - Budget Support p.10
 - Arrangements for Monitoring & Evaluation in light of the anticipated abolition of Standards regime p.13 (an update on how this may affect the reporting lines of this Steering Group will be given at the meeting)
 - Protocol for Councillor attendance at conferences & external training & development events including any additions to the annual list of conferences p.14/15

Consultation

6. Details of the current Policy have been circulated to the Council's Management Team for comment and any suggestions resulting from the consultation will be reported at the meeting.

Options

7. (a) To endorse the Policy as it correctly stands or

(b) to endorse the Policy in line with feedback from the Charter Assessment and any other relevant comments received.

Corporate Priorities

8. The provision of a Member Development Policy is consistent with the priority actions included in the Council's refreshed Corporate Strategy. In particular the provision of strong leadership, supporting and developing people and encouraging improvement in everything we do.

Implications

9. The following implications have been considered:
 - **Financial** – Any financial costs associated with the Member Development Policy will be met from the existing Member Development budget managed and monitored by the Senior Member Support Officer.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – Any HR issues arising from the policy relate to trainers & staff support for member development
 - **Equalities** – The policy addresses equality and diversity issues on a number of levels from the provision of a range of accessible training options to supporting individual members with specific needs.
 - **Legal** – There are no Legal implications associated with this report.
 - **Crime and Disorder** – There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – Any IT implications associated with this report relate to the provision of ITT equipment, ITT training and ITT support currently available to members
 - **Property** – There are no property implications associated with this report
 - **Other** – There are not other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

10.If members fail to revise the policy, there is a risk that the policy will not reflect current training needs or provision.

Recommendation

11.It is recommended the Member Development Steering Group refresh the Member Training and Development Policy along the lines reported

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 17/11/11

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes:

Annex A –Member Training & Development Policy 2009/2010