

Second Monitor of Member Training and Development

Summary

1. This report informs Members of the take up to date at events offered in the second half of 2010/2011 through the Core Programme, together with a summary of feedback received. This information has helped inform the final draft of the Core Programme (see separate report on agenda for this meeting) to be offered to Members during 2011/12.

Background

2. The Council has put in place effective systems for recording the data it holds in respect of development activities offered to members and, under the agreed Member Development & Training Policy, this Steering Group has a monitoring role in relation to take up of events and to analyzing the relative success of activities undertaken. As indicated above, the information established from monitoring is used to inform subsequent Core Programmes and to ensure a consistent level of commitment to Member development.

Monitoring of Take-Up of Training & Development

3. In January of 2009 Council introduced an annual minimum requirement relating to the number of development activities Executive/Non Executive members should attend. Council agreed that Executive members should attend a minimum of 12 development sessions and Non-Executive Members a minimum of 8 sessions during the course of a year;
4. Details of Members' attendance levels at all events offered and activities undertaken in the second half of 2010/2011, as covered under the Councils' agreed standards, are set out in Annex A to this report;

Analysing Take-Up

5. The take up figures shown in Annex A reflect member engagement with a wide spectrum of development opportunities including events offered in the

core programme, external seminars, topical briefings and in addition training offered by partner organisations such as the Police and Fire Authorities. Members are encouraged to notify Member Support of any qualifying events they have attended throughout the year which will impact on their personal targets.

6. Annex A shows that:

- 17 Non Exec Members have achieved the minimum target of 8 qualifying 'sessions' to date and 11 of those have exceeded the target
- 4 Executive Members have achieved the minimum target of 12 qualifying 'sessions' to date
- All Executive Members have undertaken at least 4 qualifying events or activities to date;
- 6 Non-Executive Members have yet to undertake any qualifying events or activities so far this year;

7. In accordance with the Steering Groups role, Members may wish to consider how they will encourage Members within their Groups who have not attended any qualifying events or activities to take advantage of the remaining opportunities on offer between now and the end of May 2011. In accordance with previous years, the figures for 2010/11 will be reported to July Council.

Evaluating the Core Programme (including in year additions)

8. In addition to the monitoring of take up at development events another key aspect to measuring the success and effectiveness of the development sessions on offer is measured through feedback received from attendees.
9. Details of feedback received between November and end of February 2011 relating to development activities included in the core programme are summarised in Annex B.

Summary of Feedback

10. Unfortunately due to the heavy and unexpected snowfall on the day, the tour of York college was only attended by two Councillors. Originally 8 members had registered to take the guided tour of the college which gave an opportunity to chat with students and staff and the concluded with members being served lunch by students in the Ashfields restaurant. Despite the low turnout, the members who did take part said the tour was excellent and would recommend the visit to other councillors.

11. In early February members were invited to attend a fascinating presentation on York's bid for World Heritage Status which included details of York's

submission, the application process and timetable. Members enjoyed the informal nature of the presentation and commented on the outstanding work and dedication of all those involved in the bid. The opportunity to handle the treasures on display and chat to the experts about the various finds, made this event probably one of the most enjoyable of this year's programme.

12. In early March members attended a choice of two sessions which focussed on the review currently being undertaken by the authority regarding the needs and aspirations of the City's ageing population. Despite a fairly low level of attendance with only 8 members taking part, feedback on the value of the sessions was extremely positive.

13. It is anticipated that two sessions will be taken forward from this period of feedback for inclusion in the forthcoming Annual Programme. The first, an information sharing event encouraging more councillors to engage with the agenda around the Ageing Population. The suggested format will allow members the opportunity to see a number of brief presentations including some from partner organisations involved in Adult Social Care. There will also be a number of information stands and the opportunity for members to network and discuss any particular topics of interest to them.

14. The second event to be taken forward will be a repeat of the Local Economic Assessments session, held at the end of February which received very positive feedback from those who took part. It is anticipated that repeating this event in the Autumn will perhaps attract wider participation with the aim of help members use the experience and knowledge of their local area to decide how best to take forward the economic challenges faced by their communities

Options

15. (a) To refer the findings of this report to Standards Committee as part of the ongoing commitment under the existing member development policy to evaluate the success of the programme.

(b) To make any comments to Standards Committee for consideration prior to referral of the report.

Corporate Priorities

16. Monitoring take up of development events and evaluating the core programme directly supports the Council's Corporate aim of providing of strong leadership, supporting and developing people and encouraging improvement in everything we do.

Implications

17. There are no known financial, HR, legal or other implications associated with the contents of this report.

Risk Management

18. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the contents of this report other than if the Steering Group were not to refer the report to Standards Committee, thus being in breach of the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group agreed by Full Council

Recommendation

19. Members are asked to comment on the contents of the report and to refer them to Standards Committee for consideration as set out in para 17 above.

Reason

20. In order to comply with the monitoring arrangements set out in the Steering Group's Terms of Reference as approved by Council.

Contact Details

Author:

Amanda Oxley
Senior Member Support Officer

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Legal, Governance & ITT

Dawn Steel
Democratic Services Manager

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes:

Annex A –Attendance Levels Monitor

Annex B – Summary of Evaluation of Core Programme events