

Member Development Steering Group

26 January 2012

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance & ICT

Provision of Information for Members on 'Colin' (Zone 47)

Summary

1. This report gives brief details of proposals to review the current provision of information on the newly established 'Zone 47' intranet base. This work forms part of a wider Democratic Services Development Plan.

Background

2. At the last meeting of the Steering Group in December, 2011, the Chair raised some concerns about the current provision of information for Members on 'Zone 47'. This area of information was set up on the intranet, as part of the induction package for newly elected Members, following the May elections, for use by all Members. Due to the timescales involved in getting together an extensive induction programme, 'Zone 47' has so far largely been set up as an e-information area. It was always intended to review the area after the initial induction period and once the new Council had settled into its working arrangements.

Democratic Services Development Plan

3. The Cabinet Member for Resources, also Chair of this Steering Group, has set up a small team to deliver a Democratic Services Development Plan. As part of that work, the team will be reviewing the existing 'Zone 47' provision and looking at developing a more interactive 'zone' or 'area' for Members, where they can get all the information they need in one place, or at least link to it from the area. For example, information on training and development, constitutional information and protocols, calendar of meetings etc.
4. Work on this is in its very early conceptual stages but the Chair wishes to keep this Group specifically informed on this aspect of the Development Plan.

Consultation

5. As the project develops, Members of this Group will be consulted on proposals relating to information provided to Members in the new 'zone'/'area' on Colin, specifically about Member training and development.

Options

6. Whilst this report is largely for information at this stage, Members of the Steering Group have the opportunity to put forward suggestions for what should be included in the new 'zone', particularly in relation to training and development. Equally, comments of what is currently good or bad with the existing 'zone' would be helpful.

Council Plan 2011-15

7. Providing information to Members in a convenient and useable way, including training and development opportunities, will contribute to building well trained and knowledgeable Members, who form part of a 'confident and collaborative organisation'. This is entirely consistent with one of the Council's core capabilities under the Council Plan.

Implications

8. Clearly, there are resource implications in terms of staff time spent on developing the area and then maintaining it but this will be assessed by the team.

Risk Management

9. It is important that the Council provides useful, relevant information to Members in a timely and user-friendly fashion, to help every Member get the information they need quickly and effectively. These needs change over time and if the Council does not review existing practices or ways of working, there is a specific risk with this 'zone' that it becomes a 'useless', rather than 'useful', for Members.

Recommendation

10. Members are asked to;
- (i) note that 'Zone 47' is currently under review and that the Steering Group will receive a further update on how this will work for 'Member training and development' in due course;
 - (ii) Provide comments to the Chair of the Steering Group or the Head of Civic & Democratic Services on the existing provision of information on 'Zone 47' and on what information might be useful for the future, to help inform the review.

Reason

11. To keep the Steering Group informed about key developments affecting Member training and development.

Contact Details

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| | Report Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Date 19January 2012 |

Specialist Implications Officer(s)
None

Wards Affected: All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None.

Annexes:

None