

## **Member Support Steering Group**

**30 January 2014**

Report of the Assistant Director: Governance & ICT

## **Member Training Budget Update 2013/14**

### **Purpose**

1. This report gives details of the current and projected budgetary position in relation to Member training at the end of the 2013/14 financial year.

### **Background**

2. The total available budget for Member training in the current financial year amounts to £13k. As part of the budget setting process in February 2013, Members agreed to reduce this budget to a total of £5k for the coming financial year 2014/15.

### **Current Expenditure**

3. To date, committed expenditure against the budget stands at £374 relating to the attendance of Councillors at conferences. The current core programme which is analysed in a separate report on this agenda has been put together at no external cost.
4. Each Group has been asked to provide up to date information on any spend against their allocated 'pot' in 2014/15. That information is still awaited and will be reported to the Steering Group at the meeting. As a reminder, the 'pots' are allocated as follows based on a per head spend to a total budget of approximately £5k, which is set aside from the total member training budget:

Labour Group - £2,850

Conservative Group - £1,044

Liberal Democrat Group - £1,044

Greens - £212

Independent Members - £106 each

5. It should be noted that one Independent Member has always indicated that, fundamentally, he would not call upon the Council to fund any external training from his allocation of £106.
6. It is anticipated, based on the programme offered for 2014/15, that the budget will be considerably underspent at the end of this financial year. Indeed, the Steering Group anticipated this and specifically chose to offer a very focussed Core Programme (delivering designated essential training) this year in preparation for the reduced budget in 2014/15 and beyond. Additionally and in light of the reduced budget, Members chose not to apply for renewal of the Council's Member Development Charter Status, which have required a more intensive programme of training and taken considerably more Council resources to deliver.
7. Although not relevant for the coming financial year, the Steering Group needs to be mindful of the upcoming election year and the need to provide a full induction for newly elected Members. So, in 2014/15, it may be necessary to ask the Council to provide additional funds to support the provision of that training during 2015/16.

### **Consultation**

8. No specific consultation on this report is required. Members require the information in order to inform their decision making about the provision and delivery of any training for Members in 2014/15.

### **Options**

9. This report needs to be taken in conjunction with the report on a draft Core Programme for Member training in 2014/15, also on this agenda. There are no options available specifically other than to consider what kind of Core Programme Members wish to provide within budget and whether the allocation of 'Group pots' is to continue.

### **Council Plan 2011-2015**

10. Providing funds for training for Members ensures that the Council invests in developing their understanding, knowledge and skills around key issues that may affect their residents and the city as a whole. This leads to improved decision making and service design.

## Implications

11. **Financial** – There are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.
12. There are no known HR, legal or other implications associated with the contents of this report.

## Risk Management

13. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the contents of this report, other than the impact, potentially, of a reduced budget on the provision training for Members.

## Recommendations

14. The Steering Group are requested to note the budgetary position and take it into account when considering what kind of training programme to offer for Members in 2014/15, elsewhere on this agenda.

**Reason:** In order to comply with the role of the Steering Group in overseeing the provision of training for Members.

## Contact Details

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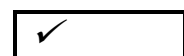
Report  
Approved



Date 22.01.2013

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected: All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

None