

MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PART 3 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members are invited to give consideration to the proposals for Part 3 of the Member Learning and Development Programme for 2009/10. Courses will take place in February/March 2010.

2 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 Each year, at the conclusion of the annual learning and development programme, Members are sent a self-assessment questionnaire seeking feedback on the previous year's training programme and details of any individual learning/development requirements for the forthcoming year.

Development Requests from Individual Members

- 2.2 It has been agreed that the individual requests received from Members in the 2009/10 assessment will be developed in consultation with the Charter Implementation Group (reference: EERA Charter for Elected Member Development Action Plan items 2.4, 3.5(2) and 4.4). 39 self-assessment questionnaires were circulated in February 2009 and 33 were returned, a response rate of 85%.
- 2.3 A summary of the requests contained in the completed questionnaires, with suggested responses, is attached as an Appendix.

3 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2009/10

- 3.1 Members are reminded that the Programme needs to be responsive to the corporate priorities of the Council, as well as the individual training needs of Members. The Programme also needs to ensure that the Council continues to meet its obligations under equalities legislation.

Mandatory Training – Development Control, Licensing and Appeals

- 3.2 The mandatory training requirements in respect of membership of the Development Control, Licensing and Appeals Committees have been achieved for 2009/10.

Part 3 Learning and Development – February/March 2010

- 3.3 Detailed below are courses that Members may like to consider for inclusion in the learning and development programme for February to March 2010:-

Speed reading	Available under the IDeA 'Summer picnic' menu (which will be free of charge to Rochford District Council).
Taxi Licensing Hearings	Requested by a Member to supplement the learning in the mandatory Licensing Committee training course offered to Members in May 2009.
Community Safety	Requested by the CIG on 25/8/09. To be delivered by the Council's Community Safety team.
Economic Development	Officer suggestion.
Local Strategic Partnership/ Community Planning	Officer suggestion.
'Personal Skills' (managing time and paperwork)	Raised during the CIG meeting on 7/5/09. To be delivered by an external trainer.

3.4 It is intended that, apart from the Speed Reading and Personal Skills courses, the above proposed training sessions will be delivered by Rochford District Council officers.

3.5 In respect of the wish by Members that training be held both in the Civic Suite, Rayleigh and appropriate venues in the Rochford area of the District, the possibility of using the newly refurbished 'Hawthorne Suite' at Rochford Hospital is being investigated.

Review Committee

3.6 A course was held for Review Committee Members on 8 December 2009 entitled 'Influencing public provision through powerful scrutiny', which was delivered by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of Member training is met from the Member training budget, which has been set at £20,000 for 2009/10. To date, approximately £13,000 has been used in respect of Parts 1 and 2 of the Programme, leaving approximately £7,000 available to be spent on Part 3 courses and on individual Member training.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is proposed to continue to offer Parish/Town Councils places on relevant courses.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to determine the Part 3 Member Development Programme 2009/10, taking into consideration the suggested courses outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report as well as the individual requests received from Members in the 2009/10 assessment as set out in the Appendix.

Sarah Fowler

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Background Papers:-

None

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DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
(Taken from the self-assessment questionnaires completed by Members in February 2009)

Member Requests	Suggested Response
Training to be able to read 'balance sheets' properly.	The Councillor will be contacted to see if there is still a training need. A specific briefing with the appropriate Council officer can be arranged.
Training in HTML website development would be useful for me personally. Possibly a training session on Transition after Peak Oil would be useful at some stage – I understand a local group is being set up.	Contact to be made with the Councillor to see if this can be provided in-house. Otherwise an external trainer may need to be arranged. It is anticipated that a climate change/climate code training session, (which could include information on Transition after Peak Oil) will be run in Part 1 of the 2010/11 Member Learning & Development Programme.
IDeA Assessor training.	The Councillor has been given advice on IDeA assessor training.
Future Portfolio Holder training.	Portfolio Holders briefed by Council Lead Officers on appointment.
Further training on vision and partnership relations.	An LSP/Community Planning training course has been included as an option for Part 3 of the 2009/10 Learning and Development Programme (paragraph 3.3 of the report).
Mentoring councillor on councillor may be more appropriate an initiative.	Mentoring in place for Leader, Deputy Leader and certain Portfolio Holders.
Specific training for Review Committee Members.	Review Committee induction training took place 9/6/09. Further training on "Influencing Public Provision through Powerful Scrutiny" provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny took place on 8/12/09.

Member Requests	Suggested Response
Any Members who may wish to become involved with O&S undertake training in the O&S process as the function is very different.	See above.
Beginners training for new Members of the Review Committee.	Review Committee induction training took place 9/6/09 (see above). Specific Review Committee training dates to be included in the Council's timetable for 2010/11.
Request from an Independent Member for training and development specific to the role of Independent Member. This included a request for the facility to visit other Councils with the same political structure, with Independent Members, in order to understand fully the breadth of the Independent Member's role and how this can be constructively harnessed for the benefit of the Council and residents. Training requested in the skills of influencing, political lobbying, negotiation and how Members can directly tap public opinion and get this taken into account.	Contact to be made with the Councillor to advise that the Council would support travelling and subsistence costs to any relevant Councils. The IDeA 'Effective Ward Councillor' training held on 26/11/09 partially addressed these issues.
Portfolio meetings very useful.	Noted.
Budget/Finance training.	'Introduction to the Budget Process and Government Finance' course held on 17/11/09. Regular Lead Officer briefings with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.