

**MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2009/10:
COMPETENCY TRAINING – PHASE 2 OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2009**

Phase 2 of the Member training and development programme will consist of six training sessions to be held in October/November 2009 (on 8 October, 13 October, 28 October, 12 November, 17 November and 26 November).

The Council's Head of Planning and Transportation will be delivering a course entitled 'Planning Development Management' on 8 October. Attendance at either this course or at the Members' Tour of the District, which has been scheduled to take place on Saturday 19 September, will count towards Members' mandatory training obligation to attend planning-related training sessions.

As outlined to the meeting of the Standards Committee on 2 April, the Improvement East Regional Partnership (IDeA) has offered all authorities access to training and development opportunities free of charge. This offer needs to have been taken up by 31 December 2009 so it is proposed to utilise it to provide up to three sessions for Members in Phase 2 of the Programme.

The following is a list of the type of courses offered by the IDeA that could be of value. It is suggested that these could be prioritised and that officers then approach the IDeA on delivery (the final selection is likely to be dependent on the availability of trainers from the IDeA):-

- Communications – raising your profile as a local community leader
- Community leadership at the local level – engagement and partnerships
- The effective ward councillor
- Influencing skills
- Membership of outside bodies
- Personal skills – managing time and paperwork

Utilising the IDeA offer and including the planning related training leaves two sessions to be filled.

Following consultation with officers, the following are also possibilities for inclusion in Phase 2 of the Programme:-

- Community Safety – delivered by the Council's Community Safety team.
- Estimates and Local Government Finance – delivered by the Council's Finance Service (high priority as identified by Members in questionnaire).
- Introduction to social media for Members.

The Group is invited to consider which courses offered by the IDeA should be explored and to confirm the inclusion of the two officer led courses in Phase 2.