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## REPORT OF THE MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP IN RELATION TO MANDATORY PLANNING TRAINING 2018/19

### 1 MANDATORY PLANNING TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 Consideration has been given by the Member Learning and Development Working Group to mandatory training requirements for Development Committee Members and potential Substitutes. The Group felt that arrangements for mandatory planning training should be amended to differentiate between newer and more experienced Members and that a combination of the length of time that a Member had been a Member of the Development Committee and the number of planning training courses they had attended would be appropriate. As well as giving Councillors respect and flexibility, the arrangements would eliminate the need for a Standards Committee Tribunal hearing.

1.2 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That 'experienced' Members be defined as having served on the Development Committee for two years (out of the previous six years as an elected Member, including Members returning to the Council who have had previous Development Committee training/experience) and have attended six or more training sessions.
- (2) That when a Member had achieved the requirement in (1) above they would be required to attend only any one of the mandatory planning training sessions offered each municipal year.
- (3) That newly elected Councillors or those Councillors new to the Development Committee (or who may wish to substitute) must attend the initial induction planning training held in May (in those years where there is a District Council election) before being eligible to sit on the Development Committee as a Member or Substitute. (This session would be available to all Members as a 'refresher' session and would qualify as a mandatory session for Members attending.)
- (4) That newer Members (those who did not fulfil the requirements in (1) above) must not miss two consecutive planning training courses offered to remain eligible to sit on the Development Committee as a Member or Substitute. If two or more consecutive sessions were missed, a Member would be ineligible to sit on the Development Committee as a voting Member until such a time as they had attended another session.

- (5) That, in addition to the induction planning training held in May, in the three years when there are District Council elections, a minimum of two mandatory planning courses be held each year.
- (6) That two sessions continue to be offered for each scheduled training course: one to held in either the morning or afternoon and one to be held in the evening.
- (7) That the current arrangement of an application for dispensation to a Tribunal of the Standards Committee be discontinued but that if there were exceptional circumstances as to why a Member has been unable to attend the required number of training sessions, and subject to officer availability, a request could be made via the Standards Committee for a session with the officer.

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