

Body:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Date:	12 March 2014
Subject:	Members and training: an update
Report Of:	Becky Cooke
Ward(s)	All
Purpose	To assist the Audit and Governance Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities to review the learning and development activities undertaken by members
Recommendations:	That the Committee note the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member development report and the information made available to it on the availability of and evaluation of learning and development during 2013 • The key learning dates set aside for in-house events in 2014/15 • The training map which details learning activities aligned to the Political Skills framework
Contact:	Becky Cooke, Strategic Organisational Development Manager 01323 415106

1.0 Background

1.1 Members will be aware that this Committee' remit includes considering and approving the plans and arrangements for member development. This topic has arisen in the context of this Committee's interest in member training on standards matters, and is in addition to the Committee's responsibility to consider any other matter relevant to the role of or support for members and to make recommendations to Cabinet or Council where necessary.

2.0 Report on Member Development during the 2013 calendar year

2.1 Members are directed to the attached Member Development Report 2013, which outlines the structures which have been put in place to support and develop elected members.

2.2 Appendices A, B and C respectively outline the learning activities which took place during 2013 and propose a calendar for learning events in-house during 2014-2015, as well as providing a training map for learning activities which are available through the Political Skills framework.

2.3 Members should note that the development of a combined OLLIE and Modern Councillor as learning tools is still underway. It is anticipated that the relevance of both as tools for learning development will become ever more apparent during 2014, and will provide a welcome addition to face to face learning and development opportunities.

2.4 The Full Council Member Briefings and seminars on topical matters will

continue to be an ongoing feature of the calendar. These short information laden sessions promote dialogue between Councillors and managers/senior managers, and provide timely access to Corporate initiatives and topical issues.

3.0 Summary

3.1 Audit and Governance Committee is invited to support a future focus on encouraging and supporting Members to utilise electronic learning resources in addition to the calendar of learning events.

By adopting a blended learning approach and by promoting what is available to access I am confident that this will encourage engagement and that we will be able to respond to the different needs and availability of councillors in 2014/15 and beyond.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 There has been no consultation.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 None.

6.0 Financial

6.1 None.

7.0 Staffing

7.1 None.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 This report updates the Committee and assists it in discharging its responsibilities to review the arrangements which have been put in place to facilitate member support and development. The Committee is asked to note the review of the last year's learning and development alongside the arrangements in place for this calendar year.

Planning for the Member Development Plan 2015 to 2020 and the programme of induction and training for 2015 will commence during 2014. It is proposed to report back in December 2015 with a draft plan.

Becky Cooke, Strategic Organisational Development Manager

Appendices:

Member Development Report

Appendices A, B and C:

- Evaluation of learning activity during 2013
- Proposed calendar for in-house events during 2014/15
- Training Map