


Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

19 March 2019

Subject:	Update on the Member Development Programme
Director:	Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee:

1. Notes the progress of the Member Development Programme to date, including the associated feedback following the Local Government Association Peer Review in January 2019.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee to note the progress of the Member Development Programme to date, including associated feedback following the Local Government Association Peer Review in January 2019.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 Elected Members with the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding of subject matters impacting upon their role will result in implications for each Vision 2030 ambition.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Elected Member Development Programme ('MDP') has been designed and led by Members.
- 3.2 In January 2019, the Local Government Association Peer Review team participated in a follow up visit to Sandwell and were briefed on the progress relating to the Member Development Programme. Feedback was outstanding describing the progress relating to the MDP as 'phenomenal' adding the programme was an 'exemplar' relating to the approach taken and delivery to date.
- 3.3 They were also updated on development of bulletins which have been circulated to Elected Members which contain key information on forthcoming training, as well as updates related to the digital agenda as part of the MDP. Bulletin two is attached as an appendix for information.
- 3.4 Since the last report to the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee a number of sessions have been held as part of the MDP. These include:
- Universal Credit Training Sessions
 - A partnership marketplace event
 - Corporate Parenting
 - Safeguarding
- 3.5 Turnout at these sessions has been encouragingly high amongst Members with, for example, over 60% attending Corporate Parenting training.
- 3.6 Further sessions continue prior to the Municipal Election with 'Induction and Refresher Courses' pitched to newly elected and existing Members later in May to ensure their knowledge on key components related to their role is up to date. Additional sessions are planned and in the design stage to accommodate both essential and requested learning outlined in the MDP brochure circulated in December 2018.
- 3.7 Elected Member support is at the forefront of the MDP. For example, a Digital Solution Working Group has been formed and includes a Member 'champion'. The work of this group has already resulted in the commencement of ICT upskill training which has been received well from those taking part. It is anticipated additional members will join this group and progress will be reviewed and reported back along with additional work streams which form the remit of this group.

3.8 A review on the MDP; areas of strength and for improvement will be held in late 2019.

4 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

4.1 Elected Members have been consulted at each stage of the process, feeding into the design and delivery of the Member Development Programme.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 Alternative options have not been considered as the MDP has been developed with Members and the purpose of the MDP is to deliver development and learning as designed by Members themselves.

6 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The MDP will involve a range of providers and support being utilised to ensure effective development and learning. The costs of such support will be met from existing approved budgets.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 An effective Member Development Programme will help ensure the council make informed decisions and empower Members in undertaking their various roles.

7.2 Members in relation to regulatory matters/functions are required to undertake specific kinds of training such as planning, licensing, standards, safeguarding.

7.3 Supporting Members in their development, training and support needs strengthens the council's governance arrangements.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 The Members Development Programme will address any Equality Act implications and issues arising.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Personal Development Plans remain confidential and any discussion concerning the same would be held in confidence.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

10.1 There are no such implications arising.

11 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

11.1 The Member Development Programme is a two year initiative designed to ensure Elected Members have the requisite skills, support and knowledge necessary to undertake their various roles.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

12.1 There are no such implications arising.

13 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

13.1 There are no such implications arising.

14 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 Designed to inform Members of MDP progress, this report will act as an update in relation to the progress of the project.

15 BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 None.

16 APPENDICES:

16.1 MDP Bulletin No. 2