

CHESHIRE EAST

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: 10 October 2008
Report of: Governance Lead Officer
Title: Training and Development

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To assist the Committee in identifying its on-going training and development needs.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To:

- note the outcomes of the discussions held with representatives of Tameside MBC earlier in the day
- note the arrangements for the delivery of the CWIEP Member Development Programme on Overview and Scrutiny
- consider further the Self-Assessment Framework

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 There are no implications for transition costs, except the provision of appropriate Member development in view of the new roles and responsibilities involved.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 To be considered as part of the overall support to be provided to the Scrutiny function.

5.0 Information

- 5.1 The Committee at its last meeting set the following as its initial Key Objectives:-
- make a difference to people's lives
 - hold the Cabinet to account
 - shift policy to improve services
 - save resources whilst improving service quality
 - solve problems through a fresh independent look
 - articulate the concerns of local communities

Relationship building – with the Cabinet and with Partner organisations – and a structured approach to work programming were seen as critical to progress, and the Committee was mindful that it could learn from a Beacon Council in this field. Members may therefore wish to review the outcomes of the discussions held with representatives of Tameside MBC earlier in the day.

- 5.2 The Committee at its first meeting agreed to participate in the Cheshire and Warrington Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (CWIEP) Programme of Overview and Scrutiny Member Development. The Programme will focus on the enhanced role of scrutiny and on equipping Elected Members to undertake scrutiny of non local authority providers and deliverers, and on considering appropriate governance arrangements. Those who are signed-up to CWIEP are Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Authorities, Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority.
- 5.3 Members of the Scrutiny Committees of the four partners over a programme of four events will consider: the strategic role of scrutiny, relationships with the Executive and Partners, scrutinising Partners and the LSP, Health scrutiny, ways of working including the potential for sub-regional joint scrutiny, scrutiny skills and practices. The content will take account of the context of each Authority and the varying experiences of Members. The Programme will be designed and delivered by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, including an experienced Peer Member. An appropriate Officer from each authority will assist with facilitation to support sustainable development. It is hoped that further details will be available at the meeting.
- 5.4 At the last meeting, Members received a copy of a Self Evaluation Framework produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and agreed that, as a matter of course, this would be included on the Agenda for all future meetings. A further copy of the Framework document will be available at the meeting.

For further information:

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