

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Governance and Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 27th May 2010
Report of: Member Development Panel
Subject/Title: Member Development: Chairman's End of Year Report

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides a summary of member training and development events held during 2009/2010 and outlines planned activities for 2010/2011. An outline of the draft Member Development Programme for the year is also included.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Governance and Constitution Committee is invited to note the report.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 As set out in Part Three of Cheshire East Council's Constitution, the Governance and Constitution Committee has responsibility for '*support for and facilities for Members, including member learning and development..*'.
3.2 Whilst responsibility for operational matters associated with learning and development lies with the Member Development Panel, the Committee is tasked with taking a monitoring role. The purpose of this report, therefore, is to inform the Committee of action taken by the Panel and to highlight future proposals.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The proposed Member Development Programme for 2010/2011 will maximise the use of budgetary resources for the benefit of Members and the Cheshire East Council.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The submission of an end of year report by the Chairman of the Member Development Panel will ensure that Governance and Constitution Committee can discharge its monitoring function with regard to member learning and development activities in accordance with its terms of reference in Part Three of the Council's Constitution.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The involvement of Councillors at all stages of the learning and development process is vital to ensure that the authority continues to meet the requirements of the North West Charter on Elected Member Development.

10.0 Background

- 10.1 In January 2009, the Council appointed a Member Development Panel (hereafter referred to as 'the Panel'), the Chairman of which is Councillor Wesley Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council. The remit of the Panel is to
- identify priorities for member learning and development;
 - discuss and agree procedures for its delivery;
 - review the effectiveness of the Member Development Programme and the Member Development Strategy; and
 - act as a conduit for the exchange of information from and to political groups and the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

11.0 Summary of Activities 2009/2010

- 11.1 Since its inception, the Panel has met on a regular basis to discuss matters associated with Member learning and development and has been responsible for developing the framework under which Member training is delivered.
- 11.2 Notable successes have included development of the Member Development Strategy; contributing to the Council's successful application for accreditation under Level One of the North West Charter on Elected Member Development; and working in partnership with Officers/external bodies to deliver a comprehensive Development Programme to meet the needs of the Council's elected Members.

- 11.3 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the subjects offered to Members during 2009/2010. The list contains a mixture of committee-based training, briefings on Council functions and 'hot topics' delivered 'in house', by leading organizations or by external bodies.
- 11.4 The fifth column of the table shows the attendance levels recorded for each event. As the target audience is different for each subject, the figures show the number of Members who attended (Figure 1) compared to the number who could attend (Figure 2). As a means of illustration; there are fifty-one Members appointed to the Council's five Scrutiny Committees, 37 of whom attended the Overview and Scrutiny event held on 27th April 2009.
- 11.5 Periodic reports on attendance are submitted to the Member Development Panel for monitoring purposes so that any fall in attendance can be investigated and steps taken to reverse the decline. The summary in Appendix 1 will be considered by the Panel at its next meeting.

12.0 Proposed Activities 2010/2011

- 12.1 Work is underway on putting together the Member Development Programme for 2010/2011. Appendix 2 sets out the three elements which will make up the Programme: (1) Topics already confirmed and entered into the training diary; (2) Core subjects relating to the Council's governance role; and (3) Proposed topics suggested by the Panel, based on Members' needs.
- 12.2 The Committee is welcome to comment/make observations on Part Three of the Programme.
- 12.3 Other activities which are planned for this year are -

a) Evaluation of Training

Following attendance at a training event, Members will be invited to complete a short electronic survey form to feed back their impressions of the course attended. The results will be fed back to the Panel to inform the development of future programmes and the Member Development Strategy.

b) North West Charter on Elected Member Development

Having achieved Level One accreditation in 2009, the Panel has begun working towards Level Two exemplar status. This work will continue during 2010/2011.

c) Personal Development Plan Interviews

In accordance with the Member Development Strategy, arrangements are being put in place to offer Personal Development Plan Interviews to elected Members in 2010. To meet the standard expected under Charter Level Two, a minimum of 75% of Councillors (61 Members) will need to

have participated in the process either by creating a new development plan for themselves or by updating an existing one.

d) Induction

Elections to Cheshire East Council will take place in May 2011. A series of reports is to be submitted to the Panel during the year to ensure that a comprehensive support Programme will be available to newly-elected Members from the moment they join the Council.

12.4 The Committee is asked to note the above.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name:	Diane Moulson
Designation:	Senior Member Development Officer
Tel No:	01270 686476
Email:	<u>diane.moulson@cheshireeast.gov.uk</u>