

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: July 2025

Written responses to questions

1. Agenda item: Member Training and Development Plan

Question

The committee queried the budget implications for the proposed plan. Officers committed to providing a written response.

Written response:

The Member Training and Development Plan aims to be as cost effective as possible; utilising online training, free resources and sessions delivered in house wherever possible. Shared member/officer learning sessions will also be explored.

Specialist training will need to be commissioned to deliver subjects such as building effective relationships, scrutiny skills, strategic decision making and conflict resolution. The cost of such courses will be dependent on who is commissioned to deliver the training and how many sessions are required e.g., where this is mandatory, sufficient places will need to be provided so that all members can attend. This may become a cost factor, should delegate numbers be restricted for an event, as several sessions would then need to be commissioned. However, it is anticipated that the programme as it stands can be delivered within the £39,000 budget currently set aside for member development.

The programme has been designed to be delivered from the start of the Member's term of office i.e., from 2027. Capacity to deliver the training and to provide space for members to attend will be built into the programme's delivery. However, capacity issues may emerge in the short term, as the number of member briefings has grown considerable over the past few years and it is not always possible to find gaps in the diary to schedule training, which does not clash with another event, which in turn increases the time demands on our elected Members and events cannot be evened out.