

Subject:	Member Training Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Standards Committee	Date:	29 th November 2011
Report of:	Committee and Member Services Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Finance and Resources
Key Decision:	No <input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That members note the content of the report.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide an update on the attendance at training sessions by elected members in accordance with the Member Training and Development Strategy.
- 2.2 To update the Committee on attendance at regulatory training sessions and training attendance levels in general.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- There is a risk that should members not attend the regulatory training sessions, then they will be unable to participate in, or substitute at Regulatory Committees.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Member Training and Development Strategy states that elected members are expected to attend a minimum of 5 training sessions in a municipal year.
- 5.2 The strategy also states that members who are appointed to, or expect to substitute on a Regulatory Committee must have attended the relevant training.
- 5.3 The municipal year started in May 2011. Since the Election, 14 training sessions/briefings have taken place as follows:-
- Member Induction
 - Standards Training
 - Licensing Training
 - Chairing Meetings Training
 - Energy Efficient Community Leader
 - Corporate Priorities Briefing
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy and Savings Challenge Session
 - The Council's Priority Areas for 2012/1013 Budget
 - Development Control Training
 - Audit and Accounts Training
 - Overview and Scrutiny Training
 - Green Vale Homes Briefing
 - Peel Energy Briefing
 - Equalities training

- 5.4 If members are unable to attend a training session, one to one sessions are available on request from the relevant officer. This has been taken up by several members. One to one briefings have take place between Executive Officers, Heads of Service and the Portfolio Holders, as well as one to one meetings between officers and chairs and vice-chairs of committees as required.
- 5.5 Members are reminded to inform Committee and Member Services of any briefing sessions or one-to-one sessions they attend with council officers, to ensure that this is recorded on their individual training record.
- 5.6 A summary of training attendance is available below:-

Regulatory training for committee members:

- 100% of Development Control Committee members attended in May.
- 73% of Licensing Committee members attended the training in May and the remaining members had already undertaken training.
- 67% of Standards Committee members attended the training in May and the remaining members had already undertaken training.

Other essential training:

- 94% of all councillors have completed at least one Standards training session
- 77% of all councillors have completed at least one Development Control training session
- 77% of all councillors have completed at least one Licensing training session
- 83% of councillors have attended Equalities training
- 80% of councillors have attended Overview and Scrutiny training

72% of members have already participated in the required 5 training sessions which is an improvement on the 30% that was achieved by the end of November in 2010.

- 5.7 The Committee and Member Services Officer reports any training concerns to group leaders to assist in assessing skills gaps and training needs of their party members.
- 5.8 The Council's Member Training and Development Strategy is reviewed on a yearly basis by the Member Development Working Group. The Council's Management Team have recently commented that mandatory training for committees should ideally be undertaken by all committee members (and subs) each year to keep up to date with policy changes and new developments. This recommendation will be going to the Member Development Working Group in January when the strategy will be reviewed again.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Any financial implications arising will be met from existing budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 Any legal implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 8.1 There are no HR implications arising from the report.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 9.1 Results of attendance at member training events and the evaluation results are reported quarterly to the Member Development Working Group.

9.2 The Member Development Working Group continually review the Member Training and Development Strategy including training provision and training requirements for councillors.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 Participation in training events has been excellent so far this municipal year and it is hoped that this continues.

Background Papers	
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Document	Place of Inspection
Member Development and Training Strategy	http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/site/scripts/meetings_info.php?meetingID=522