

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2013 AT THE BAINBRIDGE ROOM, COPELAND CENTRE AT 9:00AM

Present: Councillors Lena Hogg (Chairman); Allan Forster; Ian Hill;
Keith Hitchen; John Kane; David Riley and Jeanette Williams.

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillor Gillian Troughton

MDP 16/13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 17/13 PDP Refresh Update and Member Training Programme 2013-14

Members were advised that since the last meeting, the Democratic Services Manager had revisited the most recently completed PDPs and updated them as appropriate.

Resulting from this, a Member Training Programme for the period October 2013 to April 2014 had been developed and was distributed to Members.

No changes or updates were made to Section A (Induction Training). Within Section B (Essential Training), it was noted that some training had already taken place and arrangements for further sessions would now be made.

A suggestion was made that within Section C (Training to meet identified needs), Local Government Finance & Funding be move to Section B. It was further suggested that three alternative dates be given to Members to try and encourage a better attendance rate.

RESOLVED – that the Member Training Programme 2013-14 be updated and approved.

MDP 18/13 North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 2

The Panel considered their position regarding progressing towards the North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 2. It was felt that within the current economic climate and pressures on Officers, progression towards Level 2 was not appropriate at this time.

It was suggested that the Level 2 Charter be put on hold and reviewed periodically every six months

RESOLVED – that the progression towards North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 2, be put on hold and reviewed periodically every six months.

MDP 19/13 Equality & Diversity course, Lakes College - Update

Councillor Hogg advised the Panel that, along with Councillors John and Jackie Bowman, she had successfully completed the Equality and Diversity course and been awarded the appropriate Certificate. It was suggested that the Mayor be asked to present these at the next meeting of Full Council.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted and the Mayor be asked to present the certificates at the next Full Council meeting.

MDP 20/13 Planning Advisory Service Leadership Academy: Making decisions in line with policy

The Panel considered details of training made available by the Planning Advisory Service “Leadership Academy: Making decisions in line with policy”. Members were advised that this was a free one and a half day residential event being held at the Warwick Conference Centre, Coventry on 20-21 November 2013 and 1-2 March 2014.

Following a discussion, it was suggested that travel expenses be permitted for four Members to attend each session (availability permitting) and further suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Panel, together with the Portfolio Holder be amongst those to attend.

RESOLVED – that travel expenses be permitted for four Members to attend the Planning Advisory Service “Leadership Academy: Making decisions in line with policy” residential event (availability permitting) and that the Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Panel, together with the Portfolio Holder be amongst those to attend.

MDP 21/13 Planning Advisory Service Gypsies and Travellers: National Awareness Training Programme

The Panel considered details of a National Awareness Training Programme on “Gypsies and Travellers” which again was being made available free by the Planning Advisory Service. Following discussion, it was suggested that the Housing Services Manager be advised that there was definite Member interest and that further details regarding dates and venue be obtained. Members also asked for details of the Council’s role and responsibilities in this subject.

RESOLVED – that due to definite Member interest the Housing Services Manager be advised and asked to obtain further details regarding dates and venue.

The meeting closed at 10:55am

Chairman.....

Date.....