

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2008

Present: Councillors K Hitchen (Chairman); Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs J Williams and P Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Carroll; B Dixon and N Williams.

Officers: T Capper, Democratic Services Manager and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

MDP 42 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 43 Member Development Programme

The Panel reviewed the updated Member Development Programme.

Members discussed the proposed Planning Day Workshop and it was suggested that the Democratic Services Manager speak to the Head of Development Operations. Members also considered formalising that Planning Panel Members must have been on Planning Training prior to being appointed.

A visit to a 5 star authority was further discussed and it was suggested that this be progressed and to include a meeting with their Member Development Panel and attendance at a Council meeting .

The Council's new website was discussed and it was requested that refresher training in the use of Immediacy be provided to Members. The Democratic Services Manager was asked to pursue this with IT.

AGREED that

- a) the update be received,
- b) the Democratic Services Manager speak to the Head of Development Operations regarding the Planning Day Workshop,
- c) the Planning Panel be requested to consider formalising that Planning Panel Members must have been on Planning Training prior to be appointed to the Planning Panel,
- d) arrangements be made to visit a 5 star authority, to meet with their Member Development Panel and attend a Council meeting,
- e) the Democratic Services Manager speak to IT regarding refresher training for Members in the use of Immediacy.

MDP 44 North West Innovation Fund For Elected Members.

Members were provided with an update of the North West Innovation Fund for Elected Members. The submission has been sent and a further update will be provided at a future meeting of this Panel.

AGREED that the update be received

MDP 45 Member Development Conference

The Panel discussed the Member Development Conference at The Castle Green Hotel, Kendal on 16 January 2009.

All Members present expressed an interest in attending and Councillor Pitt had also requested he attend. It was suggested that the remaining Members of the Panel be contacted.

It was also suggested that as the Conference was on the same day as the next scheduled meeting of this Panel, the Member Development Panel be re-arranged to 30 January 2009 at 2:00pm

AGREED that

- a) all Members of the Panel be contacted regarding attending the Member Development Conference at The Castle Green Hotel, Kendal on 16 January 2009,
- b) the Member Development Panel scheduled on 16 January 2009 be re-arranged to 30 January 2009 at 2:00pm

MDP 46 Finance and Budget Training

The Panel considered and noted arrangements for the training workshop on Finance and the Budget to be held on Tuesday 20 January 2009.

MDP 47 Communities in Control White Paper Briefing

Councillor J Williams and the Democratic Services Manager had attended a presentation in October at the Rheghed Centre and it was suggested the presentation be cascaded to all Members. The Democratic Services Manager was asked to investigate how best this can be done and requested to report back to this Panel at the next meeting.

AGREED that the Democratic Services Manager be asked to investigate how best the presentation can be cascaded to all Members and be requested to report back to this Panel at the next meeting.

MDP 48 Modern Councillor

The Panel were provided with an update of the current Modern Councillor usage figures for Members. This showed usage remained at a low level.

AGREED that the update be received.

MDP 49 MJ Councillor Development Achievement Award 2009

The Panel considered involvement the MJ Councillor Development Achievement Award 2009. Following discussion, it was suggested that this not be pursued.

AGREED that involvement in the MJ Councillor Development Achievement Award 2009 would not be pursued.

MDP 50 Standards Committee Member Induction

The Panel were advised that there were three new Councillor members and one Independent member of the Standards Committee. Induction training had been arranged and would be reported for approval to the Standards Committee on 5 January 2009.

MDP 51 Action Learning Event

The Panel discussed the Action Learning Event at The Reebok Stadium, Bolton on 4 February 2009.

Details had been forwarded to Members of the Harbour Ward Project. Councillor Hitchen and the Democratic Services Manager expressed an interest in attending and it was suggested that the remaining Members of the Harbour Ward Project be contacted.

AGREED that

- a) Councillor Hitchen and the Democratic Services Manager attend the Action Learning Event at The Reebok Stadium, Bolton on 4 February 2009.
- b) the remaining Members of the Harbour Ward Project be contacted.

MDP 52 Older Persons Champion

The Panel were advised that the next meeting of the North West Network was to be in January/February 2009. The visit by the Older Person's Network Co-Ordinator had not taken place due to ill health and the Panel asked for this to be pursued in other ways.

AGREED that the Democratic Services Manager be requested to contact the North West Network to pursue other ways of progressing this.

The meeting closed at 11:55 am.

Chairman.....

Date.....