

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2008

Present: Councillors K Hitchen (Chairman); N Williams (Deputy Chairman); Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs J Williams; A Carroll; B Dixon.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Watson.

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

MDP 14 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 15 Arrangement of Agenda

With the permission of the Chairman, it was **AGREED** that an additional item, the Summary Report from North West Employers on the Learning and Development Interviews, be considered.

MDP 16 Revised Member Development Strategy (1st Draft)

Members considered the 1st draft of the revised Member Development Strategy.

During discussion of this item, Members suggested the mission statement be expanded to include reference to the encouragement of recruiting and retaining of Members, and succession planning. It was also suggested that IDeA be approached to ascertain other examples of Member Development Mission Statements.

AGREED - that

- a) the first draft of the Revised Member Development Strategy be received,
- b) Members comments and suggestions on the Revised Member Development Strategy be forwarded to the Democratic Services Manager as soon as possible,
- c) IDeA be approached to ascertain other examples of Member Development Mission Statements, and
- d) a further draft be brought to a future meeting with a view to submission to Full Council in September for final approval

MDP 17 Personal Development Plans and Development Program

Members were provided with a verbal update on the progress made with Member's Personal Development Plans.

The Panel were advised that the NWEO consultant had completed the main tranche of PDPs, having interviewed 29 Members.

Individual PDP reports had been sent direct to those Members who had taken up the opportunity of an interview and they had been asked to reply if any changes were required.

Section 4 of the Summary Report distributed to the Panel highlighted areas for development and this would form the basis of the draft Member Development Programme, which will be brought to the next meeting.

Members expressed their appreciation for the NWEO consultants work and noted that for accreditation to be renewed in 2009, at least 37 PDPs must be completed.

The Chairman requested details of those Members who had yet to take up the opportunity of an interview with a view to contacting them.

AGREED that –

- a) the Summary Report be received,
- b) the Draft Member Development Programme be brought to the next meeting of this Panel, and
- c) the Chairman contact those Members who have yet to take up the opportunity of a PDP interview.

MDP 18 Older Peoples Champion

Members considered the possible representation by an elected Member on the Older People's Champion Network.

During consideration of this item, Members were advised that the Champions Network had been established recently by Better Government for Older People North West, a cabinet Office and DWP sponsored initiative aimed at securing a better deal for older people (over 50's) in the way public services are delivered.

The network consists of elected Member Champions from (potentially) all 46 authorities in the North West region.

Having attended a recent meeting of the North West Older People's Champion Network at Rossendale Borough Council, Councillor Mrs J Williams had expressed an interest in being this Council's representative.

During discussion of this item, Members expressed their support for this Council becoming a member of the Older People's Champion Network and for Councillor Mrs J Williams as the representative.

Members also suggested that young people should also be engaged in the work of the Council and further suggested that school be invited to attend Full Council and Executive meetings. An article in Copeland Matters may also be a way to get the message out.

It was suggested that an item for a future meeting should be recommendations on how to improve Council meetings.

AGREED that –

- a) it be recommended to Full Council that Copeland Borough Council be represented on the Older People's Champion Network,
- b) Councillor Mrs J Williams be supported as the Council's representative on the Older People's Champion Network to Full Council,
- c) schools be invited to attend Full Council and Executive meetings,
- d) an article be published in Copeland Matters to encourage young people to engage with the Council, and
- e) an Agenda item on how to improve council meetings be brought to a future meeting of this Panel.

MDP 19 Joint Training

The Panel were advised that Allerdale Borough Council are holding a Place Shaping Seminar organised through North West Employers on 11 September 2008 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at The Oval Centre and Copeland Members were invited.

AGREED – that the Place Shaping Seminar be advertised in the next Member Development Newsletter.

MDP 20 Cumbria Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

Members discussed the newly formed Cumbria Improvement & Efficiency Partnership which was made up of Achieving Cumbria Excellence (ACE) and Connecting Cumbria Partnership.

It was noted that Copeland Borough Council did not have a Member appointed to it and Members requested further details as to its make up and terms of reference.

AGREED – that the Democratic Services Manager contact Cumbria Improvement & Efficiency Partnership to obtain details of their make up and terms of reference, then the Panel be updated at a future meeting.

MDP 21 Name Badges

Members requested Copeland name badges for use when attending outside functions.

AGREED – that the Democratic Services Manager investigate and the Panel be updated at a future meeting.

MDP 22 Health and Safety Guidelines

The Panel discussed Member’s health and safety issues when visiting constituents and requested clarification from the Council.

AGREED – that the Democratic Services Manager investigate and the Panel be updated at a future meeting.

MDP 23 Modern Councillor

The Panel were advised that a demonstration of Modern Councillor was arranged prior to and following Full Council on 24 June 2008, however response from Members was poor with only 4 Members visiting.

A further presentation had been included on the next OSC Management agenda on 18 July 2008.

Members were also advised that a Modern Councillor seminar had been arranged at Penrith Town Hall on 22 July 2008 and that 6 places had been reserved.

The meeting closed at 12:25 am.

Chairman.....

Date.....