

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2008

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Watson and N Williams.

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

MDP 08 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 09 Report on I&DeA Leadership Academy

Councillor Carroll presented a report to the Panel on his recent attendance at the I&DeA Leadership Academy Fastrack.

Members were advised that the Fastrack course was run over three weekend modules plus one voluntary fourth weekend and was tailored towards younger Councillors.

The Panel were further advised that the course was a good mix of formal, informal and social sessions and was attended by members of all political persuasions from across the country.

Councillor Carroll stated that the course was professionally run and that he had benefited from being given the opportunity to attend, for which he thanked the Panel. The course was recommended for other Members.

The Panel thanked Councillor Carroll for his report.

During discussion of this item, it was noted that Councillor J Kane would be attending a future IDeA Leadership Academy.

Members asked for the number of subsidized places that were available and, following the merger of Achieving Cumbria Excellence (ACE) and North West Improvement Network, the future of the 50% subsidy.

It was suggested that the Leadership Academy be featured in a future issue of the Member Development Newsletter.

Members also raised the possibility of asking the seven members who have completed the course to identify any benefits to the Council resulting from their attendance.

AGREED that –

- a) the number of subsidized places and the future of the 50% subsidy be investigated and the Panel advised;
- b) the Leadership Academy course be featured in a future issue of the Member Development Newsletter and
- c) requesting those Members who have already completed the Leadership Academy course to identify benefits for the Council be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

MDP 10 Place Shaping Seminar

The Panel were advised that Allerdale Borough Council had recently received a Place Shaping Seminar organised through North West Employers and discussed the possibility of arranging a similar session for Copeland Members which (space permitting) could also be made available to Allerdale members.

AGREED – that the Democratic Services Manager be asked to liaise with Allerdale Borough Council for a Place Shaping Seminar, to be arranged possibly in September 2008.

MDP 11 Personal Development Plan Update

Members were updated on the arrangements for completion of Personal Development Plan interviews which were currently being held. Methods to boost the numbers of PDPs being completed were also discussed.

AGREED – that the Democratic Services Manager continue to explore the ways Members could complete Personal Development Plan interviews and an update be made to the next meeting.

MDP 12 NWEO Charter Renewal

The Panel were reminded that the NWEO Charter requires the Member Development Strategy to be reviewed at least twice between charter accreditation and renewal.

Members asked for a copy of the current strategy to be e-mailed to them, for the Democratic Services Manager and Technical Support Officer to review and update, and that it be further discussed at the next meeting of the Panel, prior to being presented to Full Council for approval.

The NWEO Charter renewal will be due in 2009 and it was requested that a MS Project file be set up to track progress and ensure accreditation deadlines are met.

AGREED – that

- a) the Member Development Strategy be e-mailed to the Panel;
- b) the Democratic Services Manager and Technical Support Officer update the Member Development Strategy and it be discussed at the next meeting and
- c) A MS Project file be set up to track progress towards NWEO Charter Accreditation Renewal and Councillor Hitchen be given access to MS Project.

MDP 13 Joint Member Development Panel

The Panel were updated on the Joint Member Development Panel that took place at Allerdale House on 28 may 2008.

MDP 14 Modern Councillor

Members were reminded that a demonstration of Modern Councillor will be available before and after Full Council on 24 June 2008.

The meeting closed at 11:15 am.

Chairman.....

Date.....