

COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – RECOMMENDATION FROM MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor Norman Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Tim Capper

REPORT AUTHOR: Tim Capper

Summary and Recommendation:

Asks Executive to recommend Council to disband the Member Development Panel and appoint a Member Champion for Councillor development in Copeland
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's accreditation to the NWEO Member Development Charter is due for renewal in September 2009. The Member Development Panel has been considering ways in which councillor development at Copeland could become more focussed as part of preparation for accreditation renewal, as there is a great deal of work still to be done at both member and officer level if accreditation renewal is to be achieved.

2. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

- 2.1 After considering the matter at some length, and looking at other authorities in the region with a good track record in councillor development, the Member Development Panel has concluded that its own role in Councillor development here has become obsolete. Attendance and levels of interest and commitment among Panel members is patchy and the Panel considers that it is no longer appropriate or useful to have a formally constituted committee of the Council meeting regularly on a formal basis. Such a panel is not usually a feature in local authorities where councillor development is embedded in the local culture, nor is it a requirement of NWEO accreditation.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 As an alternative arrangement, the Panel is proposing that Council should be recommended to designate a single Member as Councillor Development Champion, with responsibility for leading the work on councillor training and development, including preparation for our accreditation renewal between now and September and if successful moving on to working towards Level 2 accreditation in subsequent years. This role could be combined with an Executive Portfolio, or alternatively could stand outside the portfolio structure. In any event the role is likely to require a considerable time commitment from the Member Champion between now and September. It is not considered necessary to formally re-allocate the terms of reference of the existing Panel

to another Member forum. There is a budget for Member Development of £20,600 in 2009/2010.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Executive is asked to recommend Council to implement the Panel's recommendation with effect from the Annual Meeting 2009.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer comments	No comments
S. 151 Officer comments	

List of Consultees:

Head of Legal & Democratic Services; Head of Finance & MIS; Portfolio Holder; Leader

