

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Carroll.

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

MDP 62 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 63 Arrangement of Agenda

With the agreement of the Chairman, an extra item 'Member Training Requests' was added to the agenda.

MDP 64 Member Development Programme

The Panel was updated on the Member Development Programme and advised that 90-95% of the training needs identified as a 'priority' would be met by the end of the 2008/09 municipal year.

With regard to Media Skills training, the possibility of joint training with Sellafeld/Westlakes would be investigated.

AGREED That

- a) the Member Development Programme update be received, and
- b) the possibility of joint Media training with Sellafeld/Westlakes be investigated.

MDP 65 North West Innovation Fund For Elected Members.

Members were updated on the submission that had been made to the North West Innovation Fund for Elected Members.

The funding application submitted had been successfully approved by North West Employers Organisation.

It was noted that the Project Group was to meet again on 23 February. The project needed to be finished by October 2009.

AGREED That the update on the North West Innovation Fund for Elected Members be received.

MDP 66 Communities in Control White Paper

The Panel discussed options regarding the delivery of training on the Communities in Control White Paper to all Members. A possible option was to present prior to the Executive and Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings. The Democratic Services Manager was asked to progress this item.

In the meantime, copies of the training handouts would be circulated to Members of this Panel.

AGREED That the delivery of training on the Communities in Control White Paper to all Members be progressed by the Democratic Services Manager.

MDP 67 Personal Development Plans

Members were advised that the Democratic Services Manager had secured the services of Val Slater as Personal Development Plan facilitator commencing 20 May 2009 until 3 June 2009. A timetable would be produced for up to six interviews per day for of ninety minute duration.

AGREED That the arrangements for Personal Development Plans be progressed.

MDP 68 Member Training Requests

The Panel considered written requests for training from two Councillors, under the procedure for assessing requests for training outside the agreed Member Development Programme.

The Panel assessed the requests using the scoring system based on the Council's Corporate priorities.

Councillor Norwood requested attendance at 'Finance for Elected Members' on 24 March 2009 and 'Final Accounts for Members' on 9 June 2009, both organised through North West Employers Organisation.

Councillor Mrs J Williams requested attendance at 'Inspiring Community Engagement through Appreciative Inquiry' on 11 May 2009 also organised through North West Employers Organisation.

Councillor Mrs J Williams declared a personal interest and left the room during the discussion of her application.

AGREED That the training requests for both Members be approved.

The meeting closed at 2:40 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....