

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 3:00pm

Present: Councillors K Hitchen (Chairman); Mrs E Eastwood; J Kane; M McVeigh and Mrs C Watson.

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor J Bowman.

MDP 39/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 40/10 Induction Training for New Members 2011

The Panel was advised of progress made regarding joint induction training.

It was reported that Pixel Fountain and Arnie Skelton were being contacted to arrange training sessions.

The Joint Training situation with Allerdale will be reviewed at the end of February.

With regard to Induction training for new Copeland Members, Tuesday 10 May 2011 had been earmarked for the first meeting. This would include a Tour of the Building, meeting with leading Officers and Members, Member Services, Practical training (MCAL, IT, etc) and would include a buffet. Other local modules would follow thereafter.

The Panel further discussed the way in which Council communicated with Members and suggested that from 5 May 2011 a decision be made that only electronic communications be made. The Democratic Services Manager was asked to discuss this with the Leader of the Council.

The use of external facilitators for training was discussed. It was noted that Councillors Kane, Hitchen and Bowman together with the Democratic Services Manager were to meet with the Chief Executive to clarify and it was suggested that if resources are offered free of charge by employer organisations (for example through the Choosing to

Change programme), we should use them, provided they give what is required and that the use of facilitators did not delay the induction programme. For that reason it was recommended that the induction programme move forward with the resources already identified.

RESOLVED – that

- a) The Induction Training programme be progressed,
- b) The Democratic Services Manager be asked to discuss with the Leader of the Council the way in which Council communicates with Members.

MDP 41/10 Mentoring for New Members

Members were advised that the Democratic Services Manager would be reporting to the Senior Leadership Team next week and would be asking for Officer volunteers for mentoring.

A brief would be prepared for both Officer and Member Mentors. Member volunteers would also be requested and it was suggested that expressions of interest from both Officers and Members be provided to the Democratic Services Manager and a meeting be arranged for them with representatives of this Panel.

It was also suggested that a 'New Members Group' be established which would meet monthly for six month to share experiences.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Mentoring Scheme be progressed, and
- b) Officer and Member volunteers be requested and a meeting with Members of this Panel then be arranged.

MDP 42/10 Level 2 Accreditation

The Panel was provided with details of the North West Employers', North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 1 and Level 2.

During the discussion that followed, it was suggested that due to resource issues and the forthcoming election, Copeland Borough Council was not in a position to progress to Level 2 at present, but should consolidate Level 1 first.

RESOLVED – that Level 1 re-accreditation be pursued in 2011-12.

MDP 43/10 Future Meetings

It was suggested that there was a need for more frequent meetings from now until the end of March to finalise the New Member Induction Programme. The Member Services Technical Support Officer was asked to arrange meetings every two or three weeks until the end of March 2011 and advise the Members of the Panel accordingly.

RESOLVED – that the Member Services Technical Support Officer be asked to arrange meetings every two or three weeks until the end of March 2011 and advise the Members of the Panel accordingly.

The meeting closed at 3:45pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....