

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 AUGUST 2012 AT THE BAINBRIDGE ROOM, COPELAND CENTRE AT 10:00am

Present: Councillors Lena Hogg (Chairman); John Bowman; Ian Hill; John Kane and Jeanette Williams;

Officers: Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors David Riley and Robert Salkeld.

MDP 47/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 48/12 Arrangement of Agenda

With the permission of the Chairman, two additional items were added to the Agenda, being the North West Employers Award Ceremony and Training on Council Procedures.

MDP 49/12 North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 1 Review

Members received a further update on of the North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 1 Review.

Since the last update, the Members to be interviewed by the assessors on 11 September 2012 had been identified and all have been contacted to check their availability.

Final arrangements for the assessors visit were now in place.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

MDP 50/12 North West Employers Organisation Awards Presentation

Members were advised that the NWEO Awards Presentation would take place on Friday 26 October 2012 at the Lowry Gallery, Salford between 10:00am and 2:30pm, at a cost of £85 per person.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed a view that although to receive an award would be an achievement for Copeland

Council and in that instance Copeland should be represented, they also felt that with the current emphasis on budgets, caution needed to be exercised as this should not be seen as a 'jolly'.

Provided re-accreditation was achieved, it was suggested that a small group attend the Awards Presentation consisting the Chair of Member Development Panel, the Portfolio Holder, Democratic Services Manager and Member Services Technical Support Officer.

RESOLVED – that provided re-accreditation was achieved, a small group attend the Awards Presentation consisting the Chair of Member Development Panel, the Portfolio Holder, Democratic Services Manager and Member Services Technical Support Officer.

MDP 51/12 Personal Development Plan

Members were advised that the response to the PDP refresh had continued to be slow and that to date only 16 had been received. It was suggested that the Group Leaders be asked to encourage their Members at the Group meetings and at Full Council to complete and return them.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be received, and
- b) the Group Leaders be asked to encourage their Members at the Group meetings and at Full Council to complete and return them.

MDP 52/12 Training on Council Procedures

Councillor Lena Hogg raised the subject of training on Council Procedures following the submission of a 'Notice of Motion at Council' as set out in Chapter 5, Rule 13 of Council's Constitution. It was stated that although the procedure is set out, there is no practical guidance available.

It was suggested that for this and any similar Council rules, guidance or even a simple template could be devised.

A further suggestion of a 'Mock Council' was made and discussed. The possibility of involving the Youth Council was included in the discussion.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the possibility of guidance and a template be investigated for a Council Notice of Motion and any similar council rules, and
- b) further training or a 'mock' Council be considered at a future meeting.

MDP 53/12 IT Equipment Usage

Councillor John Bowman advised the Panel of a significant reduction in the number of Members accessing the Copeland computer system via laptop and/or Blackberry.

He advised that a print out of Member IT usage would be obtained and this added as an agenda item for a future meeting.

RESOLVED – that a print out of Member IT usage would be obtained and added as an agenda item for a future meeting of this Panel.

MDP 54/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Panel was arranged for 14 September 2012 at 11:30am in the Wellington Room.

The meeting closed at 11:05am

Chairman.....

Date.....