

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2012 AT THE CARLISLE/SPEDDING ROOM, COPELAND CENTRE AT 10:00am

Present: Councillors Lena Hogg (Chairman); John Bowman; John Kane; David Riley and Jeanette Williams;

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Ian Hill and Robert Salkeld

MDP 17/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 June 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MDP 18/12 Arrangement of Agenda

With the permission of the Chairman, two additional items were added to the Agenda, being the Overview and Scrutiny Training at Carlisle and the North West Employers Conference at The Reebok Stadium, Bolton on Thursday 26 July 2012.

MDP 19/12 North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 1 Review

Members received an update on of the North West Charter on Elected Member Development Level 1 Review using the Net Tool on the North West Employers' website.

Evidence to support the Councils re-accreditation bid has been uploaded and currently stood at 90% completed. The remaining evidence would be obtained and added.

A draft 'Statement of Intent' was circulated for comment. Members were satisfied that this met the renewal criteria and recommended that it be passed to The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council for signing.

During discussion of this item, a number of additional items of evidence were identified and would be included.

As a result of assessing the evidence already uploaded, it was felt that a review of the Training Evaluation Form was required. A draft revised form was circulated to Members for their comment.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be received,
- b) the draft Statement of Intent be agreed and passed to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council with a recommendation that they sign it.
- c) the draft revised Evaluation Form be agreed and introduced with immediate effect, and
- d) a further update be provided at the next meeting of this Panel.

MDP 20/12 Members Attendance at Training / Awareness Sessions

The Panel was updated by the Democratic Services Manager following his attendance at the Member Training Cumbria Officer Group. Members were advised that Councillor attendance at Training was similar across the other authorities in the County. It was suggested that various ways to encourage attendance be pursued.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

MDP 21/12 Member Training – Cumbria Officer Group

In addition to the update in MDP 20/12 above, Members opinion was sought regarding a possible revival of the Member Development Network, attended by both Officers and Members responsible for member development across the county.

The Panel thought this would be a good thing and the Democratic Services Manager agreed to feed this back to the next Officer Group meeting in December 2012.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be received,
- b) the suggestion to revive the Member Development Network be supported by the Panel and this be fed back to the next Officer group meeting in December 2012.

MDP 22/12 Planning Summer School

Members were advised of a request from Planning Panel for two Members (Councillors Michael McVeigh and William Southward) to attend Planning summer School being held at Liverpool Hope University from 14th to 17th September 2012.

The Panel was also reminded of the decision made for the 2011 Summer School to allow two Members to attend and share the cost with the Planning Department, provided those members attending had not attended previously.

During the discussion that followed, members reiterated their support for courses of this kind, however, as both nominated Members had attended Planning Summer School in the past felt they could not overturn their previous decision.

RESOLVED – that the Member Development Panel do not agree to fund the attendance of the two nominated Councillors at the 2012 Planning Summer School as both had attended previously and the decision made in 2011 be reiterated.

MDP 23/12 Standards / Code of Conduct Training

Members were advised that two Standards / Code of Conduct Training sessions had taken place on 28 June attended by a total of 21 Councillors (15 at the 11:00am session and 6 at the 5:00pm session).

Two additional sessions had now been arranged for 12 July at 5:30pm and 13 July at 2:00pm.

RESOLVED – that the update on Standards / Code of Conduct training be noted and the importance for all members to attend one of these sessions be stressed.

MDP 24/12 Overview & Scrutiny Training at Carlisle

Members were advised of a training course being held in Carlisle on 12 July 2012 which was essential for the Chairs of Scrutiny committees. It was stated that the half day session cost £100 per member and both Chairs (Councillors John Kane and Keith Hitchen) had indicated that they would like to attend.

Following a discussion, it was suggested that the course also be made available to the Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs be permitted to attend this essential course in Carlisle and the Vice Chairs be asked if they also would like to attend.

MDP 25/12 NWEO Event at Bolton

Members were advised of the North West Employers' Annual Conference being held at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton on Thursday 26 July 2012.

The Chair and Portfolio holder expressed their interest in attending. Panel Members were asked to confirm with Member Services if they also wished to attend and travel arrangements would then be made.

RESOLVED – that the Member Development Panel consider if they wish to attend the North West Employers' Annual Conference on 26 July and confirm to Member Services in order for travel arrangements to be made.

MDP 26/12 Lakes College Training

The Panel was advised that a representative from Lakes College had been in contact requesting an initial meeting to discuss possible training opportunities for Members with Lakes College. It was suggested that the representative be invited to attend a future meeting of this Panel.

RESOLVED – the Lakes College representative be invited to attend a future meeting of this Panel.

MDP 27/12 Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting of this Panel was scheduled for 20 July 2012 at 10:00am. An additional meeting was suggested for 3 August 2012.

RESOLVED – that an additional meeting be arranged for Friday 3 August 2012 at 10:00am in the Bainbridge Room.

The meeting closed at 11:30 am.

Chairman.....

Date.....