

ITEM 12

Member Development

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommended:

To note the Member Development activity in 2016/17 and to consider options going forward for 2017/18.

SUMMARY:

- Members requested an update on the 2016/17 Member Development programme on 24 January 2017.
- This report sets out the delivered programme to date, with costs and clarifies the process for agreeing development.
- Members are also asked to consider options for 2017/18.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A request for an update on the 2017/18 Member Development Programme was made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSCOM) at their meeting on 24 January 2017. This report highlights the activities undertaken to date with costs.
- 1.2 It should be noted that the annual budget to support the Member Development Programme is £10k. This covers provision for all member development activity.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Member and Community Development Group is a cross party group chaired by the Leader. It has been in place for over seven years and was established to help develop the role of the Councillor in the Community. Its work has resulted in a number of initiatives including the introduction of Ward grants, the Community Asset Fund, Ward Profiles, the Councillor Induction Programme and the development of the Community Team. Additionally, the group has a role in overseeing Members' training and development. It has championed the all member development questionnaire, the results of which help guide the Democratic Services Manager in the creation of the annual development programme and the allocation of the Members' training budget.

For 2017/18 the following activity has been undertaken:

Activity	Provider
Questioning skills	CfPS
Councillor Commission	De Montfort University
CIL Information session x 2	Internal
OSCOM awayday	Centre for Public Scrutiny (CFPS)
Licensing Training	External via Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Public Speaking Workshop	South East Employers
Taxi Driver CSE Presentation	Hampshire Constabulary
OSCOM Regional Seminar	Stephen Quigley
Planning x 4	Trevor Roberts Associates
Media Course for Councillors	Soundright Media Training & Consultancy
Introduction to LG Finance	Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)
Effective use of evidence and data in scrutiny	CfPS
Waste Strategy Session	Internal
Equalities & Diversity Workshop	Internal
Market Place	Internal
LGA Conference	LGA
Rural Housing conference	National Housing Federation
Annual Licensing Conference	LGA
Total spend	£12261.17

- 2.2 In addition to the above, a session is being arranged for Members on Return for Investment, which will be provided by the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV). This will be held before OSCOM on 22 March. The cost of the session is £825. An internal session on Enforcement is currently being arranged.

3 Consultations/Communications

- 3.1 As part of the review of scrutiny a member sub-group helpfully identified potential training for Scrutiny Members. This included the request for support on Return on Investment, as highlighted above in paragraph 2.4. Enforcement sessions are currently being arranged. The additional recommended sessions are listed below:

- Time and information management (for all members)
- Chairmanship (for all members)

- Effective scrutiny – probing and questioning techniques (OSCOM)
- Performance monitoring (OSCOM)

4 Options

- 4.1 Whilst OSCOM is asked to consider development options for 2017/18, Members need to be mindful that the £10k annual budget allocation for member development covers all training not just scrutiny. In identifying training, it would be helpful if Members could prioritise from the list set out above as well as consider other activities. Alternative providers will help keep costs to a minimum as might sharing sessions with other authorities. The provision of internal support, where that support exists, will also provide some financial flexibility.
- 4.2 In identifying options, Members are asked to be mindful of the new Councillor Role Definition as approved by Council on 25 January 2017.

5 Resource Implications

The annual budget allocation for member development is £10k. There is sufficient provision to cover the additional expenditure for 2016/17.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:			
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