

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: TUESDAY, 24 JULY 2012

REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: FUTURE MEMBER TRAINING

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To inform the committee of planned future Member training in 2012/13.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 At its meeting on the 10 February the Member Development Working Group approved the arrangements for Member induction and an initial Member development programme for 2012/13 was agreed subject to all members of the new Council being consulted on any further topics to be added.

2.02 The Member induction programme was divided into two phases with phase 1 running until the end of July and phase 2 from September to the end December. Attached as appendix 1 are the topics identified for phase 2 with the specific dates included where these have been arranged. The induction programme is open to not only new Members but returning Members by way of useful refresher and for them to share their experiences for the benefit of new Members.

2.03 Each year the Council has a Member development programme which is informed by consultation with Members to identify topics they would wish to be included. Member training was therefore included in the survey of Members that was carried out during June and the results of that survey appear as a separate agenda item. Attached as appendix 2 is the initial Member development programme for 2012/13 following consideration by the Member Development Working Group at its meeting on the 10 February 2012.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The separate report to the meeting on feedback from Member development events, indicates that there has been comparatively poor attendance at the phase 1 Member induction events. This was raised with Group Leaders at its meeting on the 9 July to ascertain if there were any steps officers should take to improve attendance for phase 2

of the programme. A helpful suggestion was that more information should be given about the topic explaining why Members should attend. It was also suggested that immediately following the election Members received a lot of paperwork at the same time which included details of phase 1 induction programme.

3.02 For phase 2 of the induction programme it is therefore proposed to send individual details for each topic explaining what it will cover and why Members should attend, together with a booking form. These individual letters will be spread out but with adequate notice of the proposed dates. Again each topic will normally be offered on the basis of a morning, afternoon or evening but continuing the practice of cancelling where fewer than six Members book for a session.

3.03 In relation to the Member development programme for 2012/13, the results of the June Member survey showed support for Planning, Finance and ICT topics that were already planned or provided. There are normally four Planning topics covered each year as determined by the Planning Protocol Working Group. In May all Members received letters from the ICT Unit explaining the ICT training available to Members. Finance training is programmed for the end of November.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 For the committee to note the phase 2 Member induction programme and the Member development programme 2012/13 in appendices 1 and 2.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The Member training budget is £13,707.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Consultation has been undertaken with Group Leaders.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 - Phase 2 training programme
Appendix 2 - Member development programme for 2012/13

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Reports to and minutes of the Member Development meeting
10 February 2012

Contact Officer: Peter Evans
Telephone: 01352 702304
Email: peter.j.evans@flintshire.gov.uk