

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: THE ANNUAL MEMBER DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 For the committee to determine the Member Development Programme for 2013/14.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Flintshire was one of the first local authorities in Wales to obtain the Welsh Local Government Charter for member support and development in October 2008. The Charter requires authorities to provide an annual member development programme as well as an induction programme for new members. It also requires that members in receipt of a special responsibility allowance have an annual review of their training and development needs.

2.02 Section 7 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires all local authorities to secure the provision of reasonable training and development opportunities for its members. It also requires that each member has the opportunity of having an annual review of their training and development needs.

2.03 The committee has previously agreed to the arrangements it had in place under the Charter for annual review of training and development needs being made available to all members. Briefings on these arrangements were held in January which included training needs identified being notified to the Democracy & Governance Manager by the end of March. In addition, a letter was sent to all Group Leaders and their deputies asking for suggestions for topics for the 2013/14 member development programme to be submitted to the Democracy & Governance Manager by 8th April.

2.04 During 2012/13 in addition to an extensive member induction programme, the annual member development programme was as shown in Appendix 1. During the year training and briefings were also provided to members of specific committees on the work of that committee including Audit, Licensing and Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The annual member development programme can cover both topics and skills and the training can be delivered by the council's officers or where appropriate external consultants.
- 3.02 The member development programme for 2013/14 is not intended to cover training or briefings specifically provided for members of a particular committee nor is it intended to cover training provided to members by the councils ICT training staff. Such training will be undertaken outside of the annual member development programme. The member development programme does however traditionally include planning topics; as such training is not confined to members of the Planning & Development Control Committee. There are usually at least 4 such training topics each year and these are determined by the Planning Strategy Group (formally the Planning Protocol Working Group).
- 3.03 The only topic that has been suggested as a result of paragraph 2.03 above is from Councillor Veronica Gay. Councillor Gay has suggested a training course to help members create and set up their own newsletters and/or community information websites. The Corporate Communications Manager ran such a course in April 2011 and has agreed to run this again during 2013/14.
- 3.04 The Community Cohesion Officer has indicated that he can arrange for an organisation known as "Communities 2.0" to offer training to members on iPad basics and social networking. This is to cover the practical use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter. The Head of ICT & Customer Services has suggested that this is something members may welcome.
- 3.05 In addition to the initial programme for 2013/14, additional topics can be added to the programme during the course of the year.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 For the committee to determine the initial member development programme for 2013/14.
- 4.02 For the committee to give delegated power to the Democracy & Governance manager in consultation with the Committee Chair to add other topics to the initial programme where appropriate.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The member training budget for 2013/14 is £21,122.

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 With Group Leaders and deputies.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 - Annual member development programme

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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