

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 2014**

REPORT BY: **DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **ATTENDANCE AT MEMBER TRAINING**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide feedback on the results of the Member questionnaire on attendance at Member development events.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.00 At each meeting of the committee it receives a report giving Member feedback on development events held since the previous committee meeting. At the committee's last meeting on the 26 March 2014 there was concern at the low attendance level at some Member development events. The committee resolved that a questionnaire should be sent to all Members seeking reasons for this.

2.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a copy of the short questionnaire sent to Members and as Appendix 2 the responses received from the 19 Members who completed and returned the questionnaire.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The number of Members completing the questionnaire represents over 25% of the Council membership and in statistical terms is a representative sample. Those Members who have not yet responded to the questionnaire are being chased and a verbal update will be given at the meeting on any further responses received by that time.

3.02 One consideration in relation to attendance at Member training is whether more such training should be made mandatory insofar as the Council can make any training mandatory. At present those Members who serve on the Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, Audit Committee or Pensions Committee are required to attend training relating to the work of such committees. Where a Member of such a committee fails to attend the training it is then drawn to the attention to that Member's Group Leader with a view to that Member's place being allocated to another group member. It is only through Group Leaders that any mandatory training can be enforced.

3.03 The answers in Appendix 2 to each question are mixed but the committee may consider the following points would assist in improving Member attendance at development events:-

1. To continue to offer training on the same topic at differing times.
2. To hold training in the evening even if fewer than 6 Members wish to attend.
3. To require at least a month's advance notice of training events.

3.04 Members answers in Appendix 2 identified the following topics for Member training:-

1. Planning training for non committee members.
2. More on finance.
3. Contact officers and management structures.
4. Value for money.
5. Use of iPads (to be provided).

These topics will be considered in preparing the Member development programme for 2014/15 which is a separate report to the meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The committee is recommended to consider the results of the consultation with Members and identify improvements to the existing arrangements for Member development events.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The budget for Member training is £21,122. This budget has been underspent in recent years and it is proposed to offer up £10K as budget savings for future years.

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 None as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Member Development Questionnaire
Appendix 2 – Questionnaire responses

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

None

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