

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (GOVERNANCE)**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**
 FOR 2015/2016

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 For the Committee to agree the Annual Development Programme for the Council Year 2015/16.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Flintshire was one of the first Councils in Wales to be awarded the Welsh Local Government Association's (WLGA) Charter for Member Support and Development. One of the requirements of the Charter is for the Council to have an Annual Member Development Programme. This programme is in addition to induction training and the training provided to Members of the Planning, Licensing, Pensions and Audit Committees relating to the work of those Committees. Attached as Appendix 1 is the Member Development Programme for the last Council Year.

2.02 On the 20th April all Members were written to indicating that a report would be submitted to the 1st July Democratic Services Committee meeting for it to agree this year's Member Development Programme and inviting suggested topics for this year's Programme. To assist Members in identifying suitable topics the WLGA Continuing Professional Development for Councillors draft Competency Framework was attached to the communication. The draft version of that Framework is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. The services available from the WLGA are detailed in Appendix 3.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 As Planning Training is important to all Members not just Planning Committee Members such training is open to all Members and traditionally included in the Annual Member Development Programme. To the extent that training forming part of last year's Programme was not delivered during the year (number 4 in appendix 1) such training should feature in this year's Programme.

3.02 In response to consultation with Members the following topics have been suggested by Members:-

- Role of Overview & Scrutiny and how best to use it as a Committee member – Councillor N. Matthews
- How to use social media / twitter / Facebook / newsletters / blogs / websites – Councillors V. Gay – this was due to be covered last year
- Training on Alternative Delivery Modules – Councillor V. Gay – as there was a Workshop on Alternative Delivery Modules subsequently provided to Members on the 29th June, this has not been included in the draft Annual Development Programme attached as Appendix 4.

3.03 In the past training has been given on chairing skills but as there are a number of new Committee Chairs since such training was last provided it is considered that this ought to be included in this year's Programme. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales has recently issued revised Guidance on the Members' Code of Conduct and has considered that all Members ought to receive training on this. In view of the Cabinet decision to introduce webcasting of Council and Planning Committee meetings it is considered advisable for Members to receive training on the implications of this prior to its introduction. These topics have therefore been added to the draft Programme contained in Appendix 4.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 For the Committee to determine the Annual Member Development Programme for the Council Year 2015/16 by adding or amending topics to Appendix 4.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The current budget provision for Member Development is £

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 With all Members of the Council

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With all Members of the Council

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Member Development Programme for the last Council

Appendix 2 - Draft WLGA Continuing Professional Development for
Councillors draft Competency Framework

Appendix 3 – Services available from the WLGA

Appendix 4 - Draft Annual Development Programme

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

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