

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Submitted by: (Elections and Licensing Manager)

Portfolio: (Customer Services and Transformation)

Ward(s) affected: (Not Ward Specific)

Purpose of the Report

That the current Member Development Working Group be formalised to create the Member Development Panel with the remit suggested in **Appendix A**.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Member Development Working Group become an established panel of the Council**
- (b) That the membership of the panel be 8**
- (c) That the remit of the panel attached at Appendix A be agreed.**

Reasons

To raise the profile of the panel to ensure all members are aware of its crucial role, as champion for all elected member development and ICT.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Member Development Working Group designed and produced the Elected Member Development Strategy (which helps to ensure that Member Development is strategically placed in the Council), provided a structure, and set out the roles and responsibilities for the planning, delivery and evaluation of development opportunities offered to Members. The Working Group also aims to support Members in their various roles by identifying training needs and transforming these into a comprehensive training and development plan.
- 1.2 The Council achieved the Primary Level of the West Midlands Member Development Charter in October 2011. One of the recommendations of the Charter was that the Member Development Working Group be formalised.
- 1.3 A further recommendation was made by the Transformation and Resources Committee to Cabinet in February 2011 regarding expanding the remit of the Member Development Working Group to include Member ICT. No decision was made at this time and a request was made by Cabinet that a further report be submitted at a later date including any developments that may already have occurred.
- 1.4 The introduction of the Modern.Gov system also means that all Members will require ICT training and skills to enable them to access agendas and minutes online and through their emails. A Members Website is also now in operation through which Members will benefit from being able to access information specific to their roles, training resources and committee documentation.

2. **Issues**

2.1 It is suggested that membership of the Panel remain as at present.

2.2 It will be left to the panel to decide who is to be chair and vice-chair

2.3 The Panel must maintain political proportionality.

3. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

3.1 Recommendations made by the West Midlands Member Development Charter Assessors.

3.2 The increase in the use of ICT planned for Elected Members

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- Transforming our Council to achieve excellence

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

5.1 The formalisation of the Panel will require a resolution by Full Council and the agreement of the remit of the Panel.

5.2 The Panel will be formally constituted in the Council's constitution.

5.3 The Panel must adhere to the Council's constitution regarding proportionality.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- *No negative impact has been identified.*

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

None Identified

8. **Major Risks**

8.1 Should the recommendations not be agreed there may be a risk that Member Development and ICT provision is not given the forum necessary to progress it to the required level and that Elected Members will not have the opportunities to develop and train that are afforded at other Local Authorities.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Member Development Charter Working Group Minutes 25 November 2010
Cabinet Minutes 9 February 2011

10. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Draft Remit for the Member Development Panel