

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6 MARCH 2007

MEMBERS' INDUCTION PROGRAMME 2007

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek the views of the Standards Committee in relation to the draft Members' Induction programme for 2007.

BACKGROUND

2. In May 2006, Standards Committee approved the Member Development Strategy for 2006/2007. Contained in the Strategy was a commitment to induction training for newly elected Members.
3. The Member Development Strategy also requires that the legal responsibility of the Council's Standards Committee to oversee the training and development of Members in respect of the Code of Conduct is extended so that Committee has an oversight of all Member development matters.
4. The Standards Committee and the full Council agreed that in order to achieve this, all amendments and updates to the Member Development Strategy would be referred to the Standards Committee for comment and approval.
5. In February 2007, the Council was informed that it had reached the required standard to be awarded the I&DeA/NEREO Member Development Charter (I&DeA is the national Improvement & Development Agency. NEREO is the North East Region Employers' Organisation). One of the requirements of the Charter is that the Council provides a planned programme of induction training to newly elected Members.
6. On 3 May 2007 there will be elections for the Council and the Mayor. It is anticipated that there will be a large intake of new Members to the Council. Planning has therefore commenced in respect of the induction programme for newly elected Members.

PROPOSALS

7. The current draft of the induction programme is attached at Appendix 1. The induction programme is, in effect, divided into three main sections.

Section 1 (initial induction sessions 1 to 5) offers a basic introduction to the Council. The five individual sessions take place during the first three weeks after the election and cover:

- Basic toolkit: Administration; access to resources; dealing with constituents; etc
- Member Support: Members' support and information services; the Members' One-Stop Casework service; IT resources and information systems; etc
- Mapping the Council: Governance arrangement; the roles of Council, the Mayor, Committees, Scrutiny and how it all fits together; roles of Councillors; etc
- The Constitution: procedural rules; the Members' Code of Conduct; codes and protocols; registering and declaring interests; the roles of political groups; etc
- How the Council delivers its business: Corporate Performance Assessment; Middlesbrough Partnership; Local Area Agreements; working with key partners; etc

Section 2 (sessions 6 to 12) offers individual briefings on the work of the Council's main Departments (Environment & Neighbourhood Service; Regeneration; Adult Care; Children Families & Learning), along with briefings on Finance matters, Service Middlesbrough (HBS), the role of Scrutiny, and responsibilities of Members who serve on Outside Bodies (Police, Fire, other bodies).

These sessions are planned at one per week over the 7 weeks following the initial induction sessions.

Section 3. This final section comprises the training that Members sitting on certain Committees are now required to undertake, as previously agreed by Standards Committee (as part of the consideration of the Member Development Strategy). The relevant Committees are Licensing Committee; Planning & Development Committee; Staff Appeals Committee; Complaints & Appeals Committee; Standards Committee; and the Teesside Pension Fund.

8. Members of the Standards Committee are invited to consider the draft Member Induction Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Members views are requested.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Standards Committee 8 May 2006: Member Development Strategy
2007-2007

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23 February 2007