

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 SEPTEMBER 2007

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2007-2008

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present the Member Development Strategy for 2007/2008 to the Standards Committee.

MEMBERS' DEVELOPMENT CHARTER AND INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

2. In 2001 the Council signed up to the I&DeA (Improvement and Development Agency) Charter for Member Development. More recently I&DeA, in association with NEREO (North East Regional Employers Organisation) has re-launched the Member Development Charter to include externally assessed standards that must be achieved in order to gain Charter Status. It was reported to Committee in May last year that the Council was seeking Charter Status in respect of Member Development.
3. Members will be pleased to note that Charter Status was awarded in March 2007.
4. In addition, it was decided to seek Investors in People (IIP) status in respect of Elected Members. The Council was awarded IIP status in May this year. Middlesbrough was the first Council in the North of England to secure IIP for Elected Members under the new standards, which are more rigorous than those previously in place.
5. In May this year 11 new Members were elected to the Council. An induction programme as comprising 5 main sessions followed by 6 Departmental briefings was put in place. This was very well attended both by the new Members, and by a number of existing Members.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007/2008

6. Last year Committee approved the Strategy and Development Programme for 2006 – 2007. Attached at Appendix 1 is the Strategy and Development Programme for the forthcoming year.
7. The draft Member Development Programme proposed for 2007/2008 (pages 10 – 12 of the Strategy document) sets out the main learning and development opportunities available to Members throughout the year.
8. The draft content of the Member Development Programme is based on a number of factors including:
 - training and development needs of individual Members as identified through their personal development plans;
 - forthcoming changes to legislation;
 - structural changes within the Council;
 - best practice developments and new or innovative service delivery practices;
 - recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Board.

The Member Development Programme is amended on an ongoing basis throughout the year to reflect changes in legislation and practice as they occur.

9. Members' views are invited in respect of the draft programme.
10. There have always been a small number of Committees where Members are required to have undergone basic training before they can sit on a Committee. This year it is proposed that the requirement is extended to include Teesside Pension Fund, Complaints & Appeals Committee and Staff Appeals Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. That the Member Development Strategy attached at Appendix 1 is agreed by the Committee.

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