

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Monday 6 July 2009

Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Member Development Sub-Committee members with information on issues relating to the development of Elected Members.

2. MEMBER BRIEFINGS 2009/2010

As part of the Elected Member Development Programme, Members regularly receive a variety of briefings, some of which are co-ordinated through Corporate Personnel. However, a high number are provided directly through Directorates on an ad hoc and unco-ordinated basis.

The Member Satisfaction Survey has recently highlighted that although over half of respondents were kept briefed most of the time – a significant minority (38.2%) felt they were received occasional briefings, which could impact upon their effectiveness in dealing with matters for which briefings are intended. Therefore, in order to achieve a co-ordinated approach to Elected Member briefings crucial to their community leadership role, it is proposed to provide a range of scheduled briefings on issues of significant importance.

Members are asked to consider the list of briefings attached (Appendix 1) and to:

- a) approve those which it considers should be delivered during the period 2009/2010
- b) consider the most effective way of delivering these briefings.

3. MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY

All Councillors were invited to respond to the questionnaire, the main focus of the questions was upon the level and quality of the support Councillors receive from officers across the full range of roles, Cabinet, Chair and Vice Chair, as Area Committee Members, Front Line Councillors, and Members of the Local Strategic Partnership. The feedback from the spread of different roles will provide different perspectives.

There were 48 responses from a possible 75, which is a high rate of return and reflects an interest in the issues facing members in terms of the support they receive.

Although a formal analysis of the results of the survey is currently being undertaken, Members are asked to note the initial results shown in Appendix 2.

4. CERTIFICATE FOR COUNCILLORS

The University of Sunderland are currently taking nominations for this year's intake on the Certificate for Councillors course (details attached in Appendix 3). All Councillors have been given the opportunity to apply to join the course and to date two have confirmed their interest.

Members are, therefore, asked to confirm their support for Councillor Ivan Richardson and Councillor Dianne Snowdon to undertake this programme of development.

5. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP (RIEP)

As part of the RIEP's Community Engagement and Empowerment Programme, each local authority in the region is being offered the opportunity to draw on two areas of development from a range of issues, which a recent regional Councillor sounding board has identified as being of the high priority. These are being offered free of charge and can be delivered within the next 12 months. The sessions identified are:

1. Neighbourhoods and Community Engagement
2. Equalities and Councillors
3. Influencing
4. Conflict Resolution
5. Community Safety
6. Ambitious Local Governments
7. Supporting Constituents with Complex Issues
8. Media and Communications
9. Performance Management
10. CAA
11. Scrutiny Skills
12. LAA

Members are asked to consider current council priorities and to agree on two areas of development which they feel Councillors would most benefit from receiving from the RIEP.

6. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Members are asked to receive an update on the Community Leadership Programme to date.