

Report of the Head of Legal Services

Member Development Plan 2017/18

Purpose of report

To provide Members with the draft Member Development Plan 2017/18 for approval.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Member Development Plan 2017/18 be approved.

Introduction and Background

1. The Code of Corporate Governance requires that arrangements are put in place to support Members to enable them to carry out their roles on the Authority effectively. To facilitate this requirement, the Authority recently adopted a Member Development Strategy from which a three year rolling programme (2017 to 2020) is being developed.
2. The rolling programme will be fire authority specific and complimentary to the programmes provided by constituent authorities. The key objective is to provide opportunities for both new and existing Members to improve upon their knowledge and awareness, thereby strengthening their roles in decision making and in providing challenge. The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner will also be invited to attend sessions and events to help build on his existing knowledge of the work of the Authority.
3. In December 2016, the Authority approved the Member Development Strategy 2017-2020 and agreed to focus on the theme of the Fire Service “Adding Extra Value”, which is encompassed within our overarching vision of “Saving More Lives”. The 2017/18 Plan will focus on these themes with sessions adjusted on annual basis in response to organisational, statutory and feedback from Members.

Member Development Plan 2017/18

4. The 2016 Member Development Plan commenced in May 2016 until the end of the calendar year. In addition, Members were invited to attend a tour of the Operational Command and Control Centre at West Mercia Police Headquarters in January 2017 and a financial and budget workshop that took place ahead of the budget setting in February 2017.

5. The new Member Development Plan for 2017/18 commences in June 2017 with a detailed Members' Induction due to the increased likelihood of new Authority Members that may be appointed by Worcestershire County Council following elections in May 2017. The next Member Development Plan will then begin in June 2018.
6. All Members are invited to the Members' Induction Sessions as they can provide a useful refresher session. There has been an element of repetition in the 2017/18 plan to accommodate any new Members appointed by either of the constituent authorities in May 2017. However, the repetition of sessions may benefit existing Members who were unable to attend any sessions that were run in previous years.
7. The sessions within the Member Development Plan link in not only with the theme "Adding Extra Value - Saving More Lives", but also with key foundations and objectives as set out in Our Strategy and have been influenced by the feedback received from Members on previous sessions.
8. Members will also have the opportunity to attend events such as "Dying to Drive" and the Service Exercise. The regular Members' Bulletin also provides information on issues such as community safety campaigns, strategic projects and keeps Members updated on new regulations and Code of Conduct issues.

Conclusion/Summary

9. In order to assist Members to carry out their role in decision making and in providing challenge, the Authority adopted the Member Development Strategy 2017-2020 from which a three year rolling programme will be established. The rolling programme comprises an annual plan that includes a range of information on key issues, linked to the theme "Adding Extra Value - Saving More Lives" and is attached at Appendix 1 for the consideration of the Committee.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Sessions will be facilitated in house and will require the input of key members of staff.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The Programme links with Our Strategy, the theme Adding Extra Value - Saving More Lives and the Ethical Framework.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	N/A
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	The feedback from Members has been incorporated in the development of the Member Development Plan.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	No, as this is not a proposed policy. However, the Member Development Plan will incorporate awareness raising for Members regarding the Ethical Framework.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Draft Member Development Plan 2017/18

Background papers – Member Development Strategy 2017-2020, Member Role Description

Contact Officer

Alison Hughes, Committee & Members' Services Manager
Tel: 01905 368209, email: ahughes@hwfire.org.uk