

Report of the Head of Legal Services

11. Member Development Plan 2015/2016

Purpose of report

1. To provide Members with the draft Member Development Plan 2015/16 for approval.
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Recommendations

It is recommended that the Member Development Plan 2015/16 attached at Appendix 1 be approved.

Introduction and Background

2. 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 has adopted a Member Development Strategy from which a three year rolling programme (2013 to 2016) was established.
3. The rolling programme aims to be Fire Authority specific and complimentary to the programmes provided by constituent authorities. The key objective is to provide opportunities for Members to improve their knowledge and awareness, thereby strengthening their roles in decision making and in providing challenge.
4. The rolling programme comprises an a plan for each year which includes an Induction for new Members, which is also a useful refresher for existing Members to keep updated with any changes in the Service. In addition, the annual plan provides a range of information on core issues. These sessions link in with key objectives as set out in Our Strategy and the feedback received from Members on previous sessions provided.

Member Development Themes

5. In 2013/14, the plan linked in with the Our Strategy theme of 'People and Resources' which focused on:
 - The Role of the Authority Member
 - Ethical Framework and Equality & Diversity

- Firefighter Training
 - Community Engagement
6. The theme for 2014/15 was 'Our Services, Buildings, Fleet & Equipment' and included the Members' Tour of Facilities and further provision of information in the Members' Bulletin on capital projects, fleet and equipment.
 7. The theme for the 2015/16 Member Development Plan is "Resourcing for the Future" and aims to build on the programme that has been delivered over the previous two years. However, there is an element of repetition in the plan with regards to site visits to key locations.
 8. This has been included firstly, because there is the potential for new Members to be appointed to the Authority following the Herefordshire Council elections in May. Secondly, this provides another opportunity for existing Members to attend the visits who were unable to attend previously.
 9. In addition to the annual core plan there are sessions for Members with specific roles. Further details are attached at Appendix 1.

Conclusion/Summary

10. In order to assist Members to carry out their role in decision making and in providing challenge, the Authority has adopted a Member Development Strategy from which a three year rolling programme was established. The rolling programme comprises an annual plan that includes an induction session and a range of information on key issues, linked to the themes set out in Our Strategy.
11. The annual plan for 2015/16 follows the theme "Resourcing for the Future" 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.
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 Programme.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	N/A

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Draft Member Development Plan 2015/16

Background papers – Member Development Strategy 2013-2016, Member Role Description

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