

Report of the Head of Legal Services

Member Development Strategy 2017-2020

Purpose of report

1. To seek the Authority's approval of the Member Development Strategy 2017-2020.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Authority approves the Member Development Strategy 2017-2020.

Introduction and Background

2. The Code of Corporate Governance requires that arrangements are put in place to ensure that the capability and capacity of Members is developed to enable them to carry out their roles effectively.
3. A programme of development and support is led by Committee and Members' Services. The programme is Fire Authority specific and complimentary to the programmes provided to Members by their constituent authorities. The programme is underpinned by the Member Development Strategy which aims to ensure Members are properly informed to effectively carry out their roles as Members of the Fire Authority, as set out in the current role description (attached at Appendix 1).

Member Development Strategy

4. The current Member Development Strategy covers the three year period 2013-2016 and links in with the medium term objectives of the Authority. As the current strategy is due to expire at the end of the year, a new strategy for 2017-2020 has been drafted for consideration by Members (attached at Appendix 2).
5. Each programme which sits underneath the strategy will focus on the theme; "Adding Extra Value" with sessions adjusted on annual basis in response to organisational, statutory and identified individual needs. Feedback from Members will be sought to inform the development of the annual programmes which will be undertaken in consultation with constituent authorities to prevent unnecessary duplication.
6. As a combined authority made up of two constituent authorities there will be two elections undertaken during the life of the proposed strategy. This will require some duplication in the annual programmes to enable newer Members to attain the same level of knowledge as their more experienced colleagues.

7. As Member Development is a key part of the Authority's governance framework each annual programme will be put forward to the Audit and Standards Committee for approval.

Conclusion/Summary

8. This report proposes a three year strategy for Members' Development and recommends a draft for approval. Each annual programme which sits under the proposed strategy will be put forward to the Audit and Standards Committee for approval.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Seminars and briefings will usually be delivered in-house, however external training will be considered on a case by case basis. Costs of any external training would be met from existing budgets. The current budget for Members seminars is £2,500.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The proposed Member Development Strategy links in with the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Community Risk Management Plan, the Annual Authority Report and Our Strategy.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	Member Development is a key part of the Authority's governance framework and is part of the assurances that sit behind the Annual Governance Statement.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Feedback will be sought from Members regarding future development programmes which also be developed in consultation with the constituent authorities.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	The Member Development Programmes will incorporate the Members' Code of Conduct and the Authority's Ethical Framework. An EIA has been completed.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Member Role Description

Appendix 2 - Draft Member Development Strategy 2017-2020

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