

**From:** [GRAHAM ALLMAN](#)  
**To:** [SCRUTINY](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Member Development  
**Date:** 07 August 2010 12:07:03

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Keith , from my experience it took at least 18 months as a "new boy" to get to grips with what was going on so if there is a "fast track" in any way then it needs to be looked at, possibly a weekend workshop in the 1st month. A lot of knowledge comes from actually doing the job and the training I have received in the whole has been very good. The speed reading course was excellent and well recommended along the Leadership Course which was exceptional but not for everyone and big "ask" of personal time ( 4 x 2 day residential) . It not only improved my skills within the political and council world but gave me extra confidence and skills within my business environment.

It is difficult to provide training for such a wide base of people from different backgrounds and with different skill sets especially as non of the elected members are direct employees of the council ( so cannt insist on attendance to training courses).

I would like to see elected members sharing their own skill sets with their pier group , there is a lot of knowledge amongst the members. There are several good "train the trainer" courses around , I have gained such professional skills myself and do know that other members also have these skills and ability to train others, Matthew Blain comes to mind. However this does mean further commitment for "the few" but some of the retired members may wish to take up this training which of course would be cost effective i.e. "VFM"during these difficult times.

Regards  
Graham

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**From:** KEITH GORDON  
**Sent:** 06 August 2010 14:55  
**To:** MEMBER  
**Subject:** Member Development

Dear Councillor

The Member Development Working Party has asked the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to examine the development offered to members to ensure that it offers value for money and meets Members' needs and wishes.

A working party has been established and after an initial meeting at which it heard of recent development activity agreed to write to all Members to seek comments and suggestions to help in the examination.

The working party would also be interested to hear your views, particularly if you were a new Member at the last election, regarding the induction you received and any suggestions for improvement.

If you would like to make any comments to the working party, I would be grateful if you could respond to this email by 1 September to enable me to report them to the next working party

meeting.

Many thanks for your help with this examination.

Keith

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