

THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY WORKING PARTY

MINUTES

Monday 2 August 2010 – 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber

Attendees

Councillors

I Meller, N Smith and R Woodward (Chairman)

Officers

Keith Gordon, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Sabrina Newton, Legal Practice and Member Development Officer/Parish Liaison Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Introduction

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented an introduction to the examination.

He highlighted the Terms of Reference and the suggested format for meetings of the working party. He also circulated results of a survey that the Member Development Working Party had undertaken. In view of the recently undertaken survey, members agreed that instead of a further survey, the Senior Scrutiny Officer should send an email to all members seeking their views. Members agreed the suggested format for meetings.

4. Member Development

The Legal Practice and Member Development Officer/Parish Liaison Officer presented, using slides, the background, achievements and challenges of member development. She outlined the recent history of member development in the authority and the progress towards the Charter that she anticipated sufficient progress would be possible to seek accreditation in October-November 2010. The cost of accreditation was £1,100. The Chairman expressed the view that despite the cost the authority should seek accreditation to demonstrate its commitment to member development.

During general discussion, members made reference to;

- The Member Development Working Party's identified training priority of regeneration

- Reduce cost/head by addressing attendance at training sessions – help through party whips, evening sessions.
- Building an appropriate programme in parallel to the induction programme after the election in May 2011
- Experiences as a new councillor – found induction/training sessions very useful – glossary of council terms, introduction to officers, buddy system
- Encourage a full report from those attending external training to ensure sharing of information

The Legal Practice and Member Development Officer/Parish Liaison Officer circulated details of the member development budget out-turn for members' information.

5. Next Meeting

Members agreed that witnesses be invited to the next meeting and that the next meeting be held after mid-September to allow for member availability. The Senior Scrutiny Officer undertook to circulate possible dates to members.

The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.