

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY WORKING PARTY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 16 March 2011 – 6.00 p.m.
Room 141, Council Offices, Coalville

Attendees

Councillors

R Woodward (Chairman), I Meller, N Smith

In Attendance

Sabrina Newton, Legal Practice Manager
Rachel Wallace, Local Member Support Officer

Officers

Keith Gordon, Senior Scrutiny Officer

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of meetings held on 15 December 2010 and 26 January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. Member Development

Rachel Wallace outlined the proposed induction training for members combined with the necessary declarations following the election. Further specialist training would be made available following the first council meeting when appointments would be made to committees.

Sabrina Newton referred to the recent council decisions disbanding the Member Development Working Party and the removal of the member development budget for 2011-12. She also referred to the previous decision to seek the award of the Member Development Charter. Basic requirements of the Charter included a member body with responsibility for development and an identified budget. Without these basics and in light of the arrangements in the east-midlands, it would be difficult to contemplate achieving the Charter standard. There was also a registration fee of £1,000 required. As part of regional government support reorganisation, sources of funding were no longer available.

During a general discussion, members welcomed the proposed induction training and stressed the importance of member attendance. They also suggested that further mentoring and 'buddy' arrangements would be helpful to new members, enabling them to learn from more experience member and officers.

Arising from the above discussion the working party members proposed consideration of the following recommendations for inclusion in the final report;

- 1 Notification of the induction training is sent to all members at an early stage and appropriate language to stress the expectation and importance of attendance
- 2 Specialist training be provided 'in-house' rather than employ outside trainers
- 3 As a supplement to specialist training, members be invited to 'sit-in' during hearings to experience the nature of hearings and meetings
- 4 No further work be undertaken in seeking the member Development Charter

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.