North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

10 November 2021
Member Training Attendance

Report of the Governance Manager

Classification**:**   This report is public

Report By**:**   Nicola Calver, Governance Manager

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

This report summarises attendance by Councillors at recent training sessions.

REPORT DETAILS

1   **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

1.1   Within the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee is to:

        'Oversee Member Training, (including the attendance of Members at courses), in relation to matters affecting their conduct and probity including relevant information provided to newly elected District Councillors.

1.2   The information in this report is set out for the Committee to monitor and oversee Member Training.

1.3   A mid-term programme training events was held during **May** and **June 2021.** The programme was delivered in conjunction with Bolsover District Council. It covered the following topics.

        Councillors and their technology: a refresher: Tuesday 11 May 2pm – 3:30pm (NED Session) and 4:30pm – 6pm (NED and BDC Joint Session)

        Moving into the mid-term: lessons from the first two years: Thursday 20 May 2pm – 4pm (NED only)

        Corporate Priorities, Understanding Council's financial position and the Transformation agenda: Friday 21 May 1pm – 2:30pm or 5:30pm – 7pm (NED only)

        Code of Conduct & Member Officer Protocol, Executive and Council decisions and role of scrutiny Freedom of Information and Data

Protection: Thursday 27 May 10am – 12pm or 4pm – 6pm (Joint sessions with BDC)

Safeguarding, Digital Council, Procurement and Contractual Arrangements: Friday 4 June 10am – 12pm or 4pm – 6pm (Joint sessions with BDC)

Planning Committee Roles and Responsibilities: Monday 7 June 7pm – 9pm (NED only)

Licensing Committee Roles and Responsibilities: Friday 11 June 3pm – 5pm or 7pm – 9pm (Joint sessions with BDC).

Planning Advisory Service Course: 'Making Defensible Planning Decisions': Monday 14 June 7pm – 9pm (NED only)

Modern Councillor: Best practice from elsewhere, the legislative and policy environment: Friday 18 June 10am – 12pm or 4pm – 6pm (Joint sessions with BDC)

Planning Committees – Comparing Experiences and Learning Lessons: Friday 21 June - 11.30am (NED only)

The Councils Complaint Process – a refresh and Corporate risk management: Wednesday 23 June 3pm – 5pm (NED only)

1.4 A summary of the attendances at these events is set out in the following table:

Topic	Members invited	Attendees	Percentage
Moving into the Mid-Term: lessons from the first two years.	50 Members (not including the 3 elected in May)	5	**10%**
Councillors and their Technology: a refresh	All Members - 53	12	**22.6%**
Corporate Priorities – Finance and Transformation	All Members - 53	13	**24.5%**
Safeguarding* Digital Council, Procurement *Mandatory	All Members - 53	10	**18.8%**
Complaints, Risk Management	All Members - 53	12	**22.6%**

Planning Committee – Roles and Responsibilities* *Mandatory	Planning Committee Members and substitutes - 22	8	**36.3%**
Planning Committee – Making Defensible Planning Decisions* *Mandatory	Planning Committee Members and substitutes - 22	9	**40.9%**
Planning Committee – Learning Lessons from Elsewhere	Planning Committee Members and substitutes - 22	10	**45.4%**
Licensing Committee Members roles: and responsibilities – a refresh* *Mandatory	Licensing Committee Members - 14	No Members attended	

2.   Other Training

2.1   Three Members attended an additional training session on public speaking skills. One Member attended an additional training session on Chairing skills.

Reasons for Recommendation

3.1   To enable the Committee to carry out its role in monitoring Member Training.

4   Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1   No alternative options are available as this report is for information only.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.   That the Committee note the information on Member training attendances.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder N/A

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: **Yes**☒   **No** ☐
Details:

The Member Development Budget should cover the cost of any external trainers required to deliver any training identified for the year and any sessions Members attend externally. Additional conferences that Members attend can be unexpected costs and it is important that these be identified with the Governance Team as early as possible.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):   **Yes**☐   **No** ☒
Details:

Essential training to cover the legal obligations and responsibilities of Members and the Council is included in the member development programme as part of induction and with regular refreshers. Subjects such as data protection, safeguarding, code of conduct will be addressed bi-annually, with committee specific training on an annual basis or as needed.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes**☐   **No** ☒
Details:

Training delivered in-house adds to the workloads of officers across the Council, however as much notice will be given as possible to minimise this impact.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: **BDC:** **Revenue - £75,000** ☐ **Capital - £150,000** ☐ **NEDDC:** **Revenue - £100,000** ☐ **Capital - £250,000** ☐ ☒ *Please indicate which threshold applies*	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader** ☐ **Cabinet / Executive** ☐ **SAMT** ☐ **Relevant Service Manager** ☐ **Members** ☒ **Public** ☐ **Other** ☐	Yes Details: The Member Development Working Group receives regular updates and coordinates the Member Development Programme

Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
Demonstrating Good Governance

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title

Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)
None