

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL - 22 JULY 2021

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT STRATEGY

REPORT OF ANTHEA LOWE – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS – CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report seeks approval by full Council of the Member Development and Support Strategy as recommended by the Member Development Steering Group and attached at Appendix A to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council approves the Member Development and Support Strategy as attached at Appendix A to this report, to be adopted with immediate effect.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	As the framework for the providing support and development for Members, the proposals contained in this report are linked to all of the Council's priorities.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Anticipated date of adoption is 23 July 2021.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The costs of the training and development opportunities identified

		within the Strategy will be met from within existing resources. TAS 14.7.21
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	There are no direct legal implications associated with this report. (AL 13/07/2021)
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council recognises that, as community leaders, it is important that Members feel supported in their role and are also provided with appropriate development to enable them to undertake their role as effectively and efficiently as possible. Members should be able to develop the tools they need in order to assist their residents to their best of their ability.
- 4.2 For many years, the Council has provided a range of training and development opportunities for Members. In 2019, a formal Member induction programme was introduced with other development opportunities being offered on a more ad-hoc basis.
- 4.3 Similarly, through the Democratic Services team, support has been available for Members to assist them in their roles. This support has included things such as support with ICT, the provision of literature for ward surgeries, signposting to appropriate contacts within the Council and similar.
- 4.3 An aspiration of this Council, supported by the Member Development Steering Group, is for the Council to achieve the Member Charter standard administered by the Local Government Association. One requirement of this Charter is that the authority has a written development policy for Members setting out how training is approached within the organisation. Attached at **Appendix A** is a draft Strategy that full Council is asked to adopt.
- 4.4 The cross-party Member Development Steering Group has had the opportunity to input into the development of the Strategy and, at its meeting on 12 July 2021, approved the Strategy for recommendation to full Council. There has been one addition to the Strategy since that meeting relating to attendance at annual conferences.
- 4.5 A further requirement of the Member Charter is that an authority should have role descriptions in place for their Members. Those

included within the Strategy are based upon role descriptions recommended by the LGA and have been updated by the Member Development Steering Group to reflect the needs of Telford and Wrekin Council. These role descriptions serve two purposes; they are intended to assist Members in identifying any areas for development and are also intended to provide information to anyone who may be considering becoming a Member about what the role entails.

- 4.6 If adopted, the Democracy team will be responsible for the actions contained within the Strategy and will also undertake regular communication with Members regarding development opportunities.
- 4.7 Finally, the Strategy will be reviewed at least annually against the LGA's recommended best practice to ensure it remains relevant.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None. The Council recognises that, as community leaders, it is important that Members feel supported in their role and are also provided with appropriate development to enable them to undertake their role as effectively and efficiently as possible. Members should be able to develop the tools they need in order to assist their residents to their best of their ability.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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