

Report of the Executive Director

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021-23

1. Purpose of report

To consider the principles and seek approval for the new Member Development Programme 2021-23.

2. Background

The provision of a comprehensive member training programme is a fundamental element of good governance. It ensures that members are properly equipped to undertake their duties as councillors and provides safeguards toward the integrity of Council decision making.

3. Detail

All members of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Appeals Committee and the Alcohol and Entertainments Licensing Committee are required to attend training following their initial appointment to those committees or following re-election.

Members may wish to consider the following:

- receiving regular reports to this Committee on training statistics,
- including training attendance details on councillors' individual Council web pages
- the appointment of member training champions.

The Programme is distributed separately from the agenda while an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix. If approved, the Programme will be submitted to be refreshed in May 2023.

4. Financial implications

Much of the training is provided in-house, the only cost being member and officer time, some training is provided free of charge e.g. by the LGA and on occasion by East Midlands Councils, while some is provided at cost, for this the current budget for member training is £5,000.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the report and RESOLVE that the Programme be approved.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Equality Impact Assessment

Public bodies are required in to have **due regard** to the need to:

- **eliminate unlawful discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- **advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and
- **foster good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies the law, removing inconsistencies and making it easier for people to understand and comply with it. It also strengthens the law in important ways, to help tackle discrimination and equality. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

The **public sector Equality Duty** came into force on 5 April 2011. The duty ensures that all public bodies play their part in making society fairer by tackling discrimination and providing equality of opportunity for all. It ensures that public bodies consider the needs of all individuals in their day to day work – in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

The Equality Duty encourages public bodies to understand how different people will be affected by their activities so that policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. By understanding the effect of their activities on different people, and how inclusive public services can support and open up people's opportunities, public bodies are better placed to deliver policies and services that are efficient and effective.

The new equality duty replaces the three previous public sector equality duties, for race, disability and gender. The new equality duty covers the following **protected characteristics**:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – including lack of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

It also applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination.

Having **due regard** means consciously thinking about the three aims of the equality duty as part of the process of decision-making. This means that consideration of equality issues must influence the decisions reached by public bodies, including how they act as employers, how they develop, evaluate and review policies, how they design, deliver and evaluate services, and how they commission and procure from others.

Having due regard to the need to **advance equality of opportunity** involves considering the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- meet the needs of people with protected characteristics, and
- encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is low

Fostering good relations involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people who share a protected characteristic and others.

Complying with the equality duty may involve treating some people better than others, as far as this is allowed by discrimination law. For example, it may involve making use of an exception or the positive action provisions in order to provide a service in a way which is appropriate for people who share a protected characteristic.

The Equality Duty also explicitly recognises that disabled people's needs may be different from those of non-disabled people. Public bodies should therefore **take account of disabled people's impairments** when making decisions about policies or services. This might mean making reasonable adjustments or treating disabled people better than non-disabled people in order to meet their needs.

There is no explicit requirement to refer to the Equality Duty in recording the process of consideration but it is good practice to do so. Keeping a record of how decisions were reached will help public bodies demonstrate that they **considered the aims of the Equality Duty**. Keeping a record of how decisions were reached will help public bodies show how they considered the Equality Duty. Producing an Equality Impact Assessment after a decision has been reached will not achieve compliance with the Equality Duty.

It is recommended that assessments are carried out in respect of new or revised policies and that a copy of the assessment is included as an appendix to the report provided to the decision makers at the relevant Committee meeting.

Where it is clear from initial consideration that a policy will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics, no further analysis or action is necessary.

Public bodies should take a proportionate approach when complying with the Equality Duty. In practice, this means giving greater consideration to the Equality

Duty where a policy or function has the potential to have a discriminatory effect or impact on equality of opportunity, and less consideration where the potential effect on equality is slight. The Equality Duty requires public bodies to think about people’s different needs and how these can be met.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Directorate:	Executive	Lead officer responsible for EIA	Jeremy Ward
Name of the policy or function to be assessed:		Member Development Programme 2021-23	
Names of the officers undertaking the assessment:		Jeremy Ward	
Is this a new or an existing policy or function?		Updated Programme outlining member training.	
<p>1. What are the aims and objectives of the policy or function?</p> <p>The Member Development Programme supports councillors in ensuring that informed decisions are made for the residents of the Borough and providing safeguards around acting with a lack of information or knowledge.</p>			
<p>2. What outcomes do you want to achieve from the policy or function?</p> <p>The Member Development Programme will provide an outline of the training Programme for councillors.</p>			
<p>3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy or function?</p> <p>The Member Development Programme will apply to all Broxtowe Councillors.</p>			
<p>4. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy or function?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broxtowe Councillors • Broxtowe residents 			
<p>5. What baseline quantitative data do you have about the policy or function relating to the different equality strands?</p> <p>The Council has 44 councillors who will be able to access training from a number of sources.</p>			

<p>6. What has stakeholder consultation, if carried out, revealed about the nature of the impact?</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>7. From the evidence available does the policy or function affect or have the potential to affect different equality groups in different ways?</p> <p>N/A</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the policy or function target or exclude a specific equality group or community? Does it affect some equality groups or communities differently? If yes, can this be justified? <p>No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the policy or function likely to be equally accessed by all equality groups or communities? If no, can this be justified? <p>Yes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there barriers that might make access difficult or stop different equality groups or communities accessing the policy or function? <p>No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could the policy or function promote or contribute to equality and good relations between different groups? If so, how? <p>The Programme will provide wide-ranging training that will cover many areas. It is possible that equality training will be provided or available, possibly from external sources.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What further evidence is needed to understand the impact on equality? <p>None</p>

<p>8. On the basis of the analysis above what actions, if any, will you need to take in respect of each of the equality strands?</p>
<p>Age: Where necessary adjustments to the programme can be in line with requirements or individual circumstances.</p>
<p>Disability: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.</p>

Gender: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Gender Reassignment: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Marriage and Civil Partnership: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Pregnancy and Maternity: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Race: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Religion and Belief: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Sexual Orientation: It is not anticipated that the Council will need to take any further action in order to enable access for this group.

Head of Service:

I am satisfied with the results of this EIA. I undertake to review and monitor progress against the actions proposed in response to this impact assessment.

