

Report of the Leader of the Council

Member Development Report

1. Purpose of Report

To update Cabinet on Member Development for 2023/24 and seek approval for the updated Member Development Programme 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1. The Member Development Programme 2024/25 be approved.**
- 2. A cross-party Member group be formed to consider items including Member Development and Member Safety.**

3. Detail

The provision of a comprehensive Member Development 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.

All Members of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Appeals Committee and the Alcohol and Entertainments Licensing Committee are required to attend mandatory development briefings following their initial appointment to those Committees or following re-election.

The Member Development Programme is continually evolving and has been updated to take into account comments suggestions from the LGA Peer Review Team and the University of Birmingham's document 'The 21st Century Councillor'. It is anticipated that a Member group will be able to consider topics such as increasing Member engagement, methods of communication to increase attendance and buddying schemes for Members.

Appendix 1 contains development briefings that were delivered in 2023/24. **Appendix 2** is the updated Member Development Programme 2024/25 and **Appendix 3** is the Equality Impact Assessment.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

Much of the development programme is provided in-house with the only cost being Member and Officer time, while other training sessions are provided free of charge, for example, by the Local Government Association (LGA) and occasionally by East Midlands Councils. For any training which is provided at cost, there is an annual training budget for Members at £5,000.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report, it is important to note by having an effective Member development programme in place allows the Council to conduct Council business in line with the Nolan principles, the relevant legislation to achieve sound decision- making and good governance

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment is included in **Appendix 3** to this report.

13. Background Papers

Nil.