

Decision of County Council – 15th July, 2015

11. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT – MANDATORY AND NON MANDATORY DEVELOPMENT - CC68 – 2015

Council considered the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee on mandatory and non-mandatory training.

In response to criticisms regarding the content and value of the development programme the Head of Democratic Services advised that Members should inform him of what they wanted from the programme. To respond to the needs of Members, mandatory development sessions from 2016 would be provided on two different days in different weeks and e-learning would be developed wherever possible.

It was proposed and duly seconded to delete paragraph 2.3 (iii) “Where a Member fails to attend/complete the required “mandatory development” in the timescale in ii] above they will be required to appear before Council to apologise and agree to complete the required development in a timescale required by the Standards Committee”

The motion was put to the vote and agreed.

RESOLVED that:

- i. Mandatory Development would be provided as detailed in the report, as amended. (See below)**
- ii. In future Council diaries, Mandatory Development sessions would be identified and each session would be provided twice per annum, so giving members options for attendance.**
- iii. Details of the cost of Mandatory Development sessions would be provided to Members.**
- iv. Attendance at Non-Mandatory Development sessions would be recorded but would not be monitored. Members would be expected to attend sessions to support them in their roles.**

The report to the County Council set out the following process when a Member did not attend Mandatory Development Sessions.

However, to ensure that “Mandatory development” is completed the MDWG and the Standards Committee recommended to the Democratic Services Committee and Council the following:

- i. Where a Member does not attend/complete a “Mandatory development” session they will receive an email from the Standards Committee advising them that they need to attend the next session. They will be given details of the session or how to access an appropriate session from another source and the required date for completion.**
- ii. Where a Member does not complete the second session they will be required to provide a verbal/written explanation of why they have failed to**

attend/complete the required development to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee will require the Member to agree to complete the required “mandatory development” within a specified timescale.

- iii. (deleted by the Council)
- iv. If a Member continues to fail to attend/complete the required training the Standards Committee can suspend that Member for a period of up to one month. During this period the individual will not receive their allowance and will not be able to act as a Councillor.

The Standards Committee will however, take into account a Member’s individual circumstances when considering the above.