

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON 8 JUNE, 2015

PRESENT: County Councillor Sandra C. Davies [Chair]
County Councillors P.J. Ashton

Officers in Attendance: Steve Boyd (Cabinet Manager), Carol Johnson (Democratic Services Officer), Wyn Richards (Head of Democratic Services) and Shane Thomas (Member Support Services Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from County Councillor D.O. Evans and County Councillor P. Pritchard, Portfolio Holder HR and ICT who was on other Council business.

The Working Group noted that County Councillor D.H. Williams was no longer a member of the Democratic Services Committee and so not a member of this Working Group. He had been replaced by County Councillor J. Holmes.

2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 10 March, 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

The following was noted:

2 - 3. Mandatory development and non-mandatory development – the content of the child protection School Governor training was being assessed by the Interim Safeguarding Officer, to establish whether this was at an appropriate level to count towards Councillor's development.

2 - 6. Member development – The Head of School Services and finance officers had been asked whether a further session on school budgets was required. No request had been received.

3. MANDATORY AND NON-MANDATORY DEVELOPMENT

The Working Group considered the comments made at the Council meeting on 23 April, 2015 when the report from Democratic Services Committee was considered and the officers' response to these comments.

The Working Group discussed the way forward and agreed the following for recommendation to the Democratic Services Committee for recommendation to Council:

Recommendation to the Democratic Services Committee:	Reason for Recommendation:
That: i. Mandatory Development would be provided as detailed in the previous report to the Democratic Services Committee. 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	To support the continuous professional development of Members and encourage them to see this as part of their councillor role.

<p>provided to Members.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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The previous report would be amended and reconsidered by the Democratic Services Committee taking into account the above.

4. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME JUNE – DECEMBER 2015

The Working Group received the draft programme for June – December 2015 and the topics suggested for sessions.

The Working Group noted that the Member Development session on 3 July, 2015 would now be a Transport seminar. The Working Group noted that the Leader and Portfolio Holders had asked that the date be used for this topic and that Members be advised. It was acknowledged that there needed to be flexibility in the programme but Officers agreed that the Chair should have been advised of this request and change. It was agreed that the Cabinet would be asked to look at when such seminars would be required, especially when major service changes were being considered, so that these could be programmed into the diary. It was noted that the Communications Team was reviewing with the Cabinet when press releases are made regarding potential major service changes. It was considered that the new equipment in the Chamber should be utilised to send out video messages to Members on important topics and changes.

It was noted that some Member Development dates were being used for seminars. It was acknowledged that this then caused confusion as to whether Members were expected to attend. In response to the need for flexibility on the use of diarised dates and the need to add extra dates it was considered that from 2016 Non-Mandatory Member Development sessions would be referred to as “Members’ Seminars” and again shown in future Council diaries.

Recommendation to the Democratic Services Committee:	Reason for Recommendation:
that from 2016 Non-Mandatory Member Development sessions would be referred to as “Members’ Seminars” and shown as such in future Council diaries.	To support the continuous professional development of Members and encourage them to see this as part of their councillor role.

Resolved that:	Reason for Recommendation:
The June – December 2015 Member Development Programme and topics be noted.	To support the continuous development of Members.

6. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The Working Group received the summary evaluation forms for the Member Development sessions as follows:

- ERW – Education through Regional Working 25th March, 2015 – ERW noted the feedback
- Powys Youth Forum – 25th March, 2015 – the Youth Forum noted the positive feedback and also its members gave positive feedback from their perspective to a Youth Forum meeting. The Forum was working with Councillors Mayor and M. Davies on developing a Youth Champion job description and appointing to this position.
- Social Services Wellbeing [Wales] Bill and Housing Bill – 24th April, 2015 – it was noted that the trainer used a session geared for staff, although it had been advertised as a session specifically for members.

The Working Group noted that the summary evaluation for the Equalities session held on 24th April had not been received from Show Racism the Red Card. However, verbal feedback was very positive.

6. MEMBERS APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – MEMBERS' REVIEW

The Working Group noted that in 2014 it had agreed to review the appointments to outside bodies and seek the view from Members. The Working Group received the responses received to date from Members. A further email had been sent to the remaining Members asking them to check their membership details and provide feedback. A further report would be brought to the Working Group in due course.

The database would be updated as a result of the Members' feedback and would ensure that an accurate list is used when appointments are considered in the next new Council [likely to be 2017]. Where Members considered that there was no value to the County Council of membership, it would be recommended that the organisation be deleted from the database and no further appointments made. However, if an organisation subsequently requested for an appointment, by the Council, it would be asked to explain the value of such an appointment to the Council.

County Councillor Sandra C. Davies
Chair