

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP
HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS,
POWYS ON MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2018**

PRESENT

County Councillor M J Dorrance (Chair)

County Councillors G Breeze, D Jones-Poston and K S Silk

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies were received from County Councillor J Charlton and L Corfield.

2.	NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
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The notes of the meeting held on 15 October, 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

3.	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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3.1. Mandatory development

The Working Group considered the proposal to require Members to attend two mandatory development sessions on both Corporate Parenting and Corporate safeguarding. This proposal changed the current requirement to attend one of the two mandatory sessions. It was considered that this change was required to ensure that Members were fully supported in understanding their roles in respect of Corporate Parenting and Corporate safeguarding and to address the issues raised by regulators.

The Working Group noted the reasons for the proposal. However, it considered that the two mandatory sessions on each topic area should be provided twice, to ensure that Members continued to be given an option for attendance.

Recommended to the Democratic Services Committee:	Reason for recommendation:
That during 2019 – to the end of 2020 Corporate safeguarding and also Corporate parenting mandatory development should each be provided four times a year and that Members attend two mandatory sessions on each topic.	To support the continuous development of Members and address issues raised in recent Care Inspectorate Wales [CIW] reports.

3.2. Member Development Programme

The Group received the draft 2019 Member Development Programme and noted that officers were waiting to add further topics once the issue of mandatory development had been agreed.

It was noted that the scheduled Equalities and Diversity development sessions were mandatory and built on the basic mandatory eLearning development, which the majority of Members had now completed. In response to questions officers advised that, although providing development in three locations was more expensive, as detailed in Item 3.4 on the Agenda, this training was being delivered in this way, as the Service area had confirmed that it had capacity to do so. The Head of Democratic Services advised that providing development at more than one venue should be delivered as a pilot and its value would be reviewed. Providing development at more than one location would only be considered for courses delivered in-house and only if service areas had the capacity to do so.

3.3. Scrutiny development programme

The Working Group considered the draft Scrutiny development programme and it was noted that its views would be forwarded to the Scrutiny Development Board. Members agreed that it was important for those involved in scrutiny to understand their roles and that scrutiny should be more ambitious in looking at “best practice” from across the world rather than being parochial.

The Working Group considered that the development should be mandatory for Scrutiny Committee members and the Cabinet and that it should be available to other Members who become involved in the Working Groups. Inviting Heads of Service to appropriate parts of the development programme was considered appropriate, so that they could understand what scrutiny expected from them.

Resolved that:	Reason for
<p>The following views from the Member Development Working Group be forwarded to the Scrutiny Development Board that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the scrutiny development programme should be mandatory for Scrutiny Committee members and the Cabinet, ii. the scrutiny development programme should be available to other Members who become involved in the Working Groups and iii. Heads of Service be invited to appropriate parts of the scrutiny development programme, to ensure they understand what scrutiny expects from them. 	<p>To ensure the MDWG’s views are fed into the development of the Scrutiny development programme.</p>

3.4. Options for accessing Member Development

The Working Group noted the update report regarding the various options for providing the Member Development Programme.

The following was discussed:

- Net consent - it was noted that these messages only appear on Members' laptops when they log on at a Council building, which may result in some Members having a backlog of such messages when they log in prior to a meeting. Officers were asked to check this.
- The Welsh Local Government Association [WLGA] new Workbook on Stress Management and Personal Resilience – if appropriate Net Consent would be used to publicise this new Workbook to Members
- All Wales Academy [AWA] eLearning – concerns regarding the accessibility and quality of the eLearning had been raised at the recent Member and Support Officer Network meeting. It was noted that there was a meeting with the AWA later in the week where the WLGA and Authorities would discuss these concerns further.

Resolved:	Reason for decision
That a range of options for accessing member development be made available to Members.	To support the continuous development of Members.

3.5. Evaluation summaries

The Group received and noted the evaluation forms for the following sessions:
12 October, 2018 – Child Sexual Exploitation [CSE] and County Lines
31 October, 2018 – Social Media.

4. MEMBERS' AUDIT AND SELF ASSESSMENT

The Member Development Working Group noted that the draft Members' audit and self-evaluation form had been developed by a group of Members after considering information used by other authorities. It was noted that the development of the Members audit and self-assessment was part of the work the Council needed to develop to support its desire to apply for the Advanced Member Support and Development Charter.

The Working Group agreed that questions should be added to the Members' Audit form in respect of:

- Employment status
- Carer responsibilities
- Details of special needs to ensure that the Member is supported in their role – such as sight or hearing difficulties etc.

5. MEMBER AND OFFICER SUPPORT NETWORK

The Head of Democratic Services reported on the following from the Network meeting held on 15 November, 2018:

- The Local Government Reform – the White paper was expected in February 2019
- Voluntary codes regarding tweeting and blogging and recording at Council meetings as well as the Leader's role in setting objectives for Cabinet Members were being considered by Welsh Government
- Brexit presentation

- Draft annual report by the Independent Review Panel Wales [IRPW] which was recommending an increase of £268 p.a. for the member's basic salary and £800 (inclusive of the basic salary) increase for Cabinet Members
- Scrutiny review by the Wales Audit Office [WAO]
- Support for the mental health of councillors – the support provided by Councils was discussed.

County Councillor M J Dorrance (Chair)