

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

### Democratic Services Committee – 29 April 2019

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Head of Democratic Services</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Member Development</b>
<b>REPORT FOR:</b>	<b>Decision, and Discussion</b>

1. Following the establishment of the new scrutiny committees in January, one of the priority areas for Member Development should be the strengthening of the support provided to the Members of those committees to assist them in their scrutiny role. In addition, it is an opportune time to review the general approach to Member Development to identify topics which would be more suited for delivery to all Members of the Council, and which would be better approached on an individual Committee or Working Group basis.
2. As a result of the above, this discussion paper is for consideration by the Committee. Subject to the comments of the Committee it is intended to provide a presentation to Full Council, following the close of the formal meeting on 3 May to discuss the approach with Members, with the new approach being implemented following the Annual Meeting of Council in May.
3. The approaches considered included:
  - (a) Scrutiny
    - that the briefings be provided to the relevant Working Group by the relevant officers within the Service area
    - that formal monthly Laming visits (visits with Children's Services teams / establishments) be established with two or three Members and a representative of the Senior Leadership Team undertaking the visits on a monthly basis
    - That finance and performance training be provided to scrutiny committee members involving Chairs, Working Groups, Finance Panel
    - That scrutiny training will need to engage the 27 Members of the Council who do not sit on a scrutiny committee, but could be Members of a Scrutiny Working Group
  - (b) Council Budget
    - Other than the specific development for scrutiny committees, there is a need for the development of Members in relation to budget setting. A new approach to budget setting is being discussed by Cabinet and senior officers, and this new approach will need to be explained to Members, together with a development programme, to

ensure that all Members are able to participate in the discussions about the budget setting process going forward.

(c) Other suggested Development Sessions

- Transformation Projects, building on the Transformation Session in April
- Understanding the new service structures – each Head of Service to provide a summary of their area within the next 12 months – 1 per month
- Information on topical matters
- Changes in Legislation and impact on the Council e.g. forthcoming Local Government Bill
- Specific projects such as Winter Maintenance Plan
- Large projects such as “Y Gaer” – briefing for Members prior to projects being commenced and also lessons learned following the completion of projects
- Spatial planning – area based developments
- Partnership arrangements, including Third sector links, Community Safety, Regional Partnership Board, Economy etc
- Mandatory and Committee specific sessions as currently programmed

(d) Arrangements

The following arrangements are proposed, and the views of the Democratic Services Committee would be welcome:

- On a Development Day, individual sessions should be limited to a maximum of 60 or 90 minutes, with increased frequency of breaks for Members during sessions
- Utilising different approaches to the delivery of sessions including workshop sessions (following a similar pattern to that used for the Transformation Day)
- Utilising Market Place sessions on Member Development days.

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
That the Committee provides its views on the proposed approach as set out in the report.	To review the approach to Member Development

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