

COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2013

**76 ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management updating on the current Elected Member Development Programme and responded to specific questions that had been raised.

The report outlined the Improvement Plan which outlined a number of areas relating to Elected Member Development and the activity that had been taking place to work towards the achievements of these objectives.

Melissa Holt, Organisational Development Manager gave a brief update in relation to the accreditation for which criteria had to be followed for formal assessment in September 2013. Over 75% of Personal Development Plans had been completed which was to be followed by an assessment prior to completion and a collation of a portfolio of evidence.

In relation to Member attendance at training, Ms Holt indicated that she had been pleased with the progress made to date; attendance at courses was varied depending on what the Member had specified within their personal Development Plan and it was not the intention for all Members to attend all training events. Some of the session's i.e. key transformation session had been driven from the Chief Executive's key messages, Leaders and the Improvement Plan these had been well attended on occasion. Ms Holt indicated that the Department was currently trialling a reminder service to encourage more attendances at courses.

In relation to Priority 1 'Skills for Wirral Councillors' programme, Ms Holt indicated that this was a light touch on the LGA's National Leadership Academy Programme and was devised following a suggestion from the Improvement Board who were keen for the Council to devise a programme of training which reflected the needs of the Council.

Following discussion on the item Councillor Whittingham suggested an amendment to the recommendation and moved the following motion which was duly seconded.

'There was a recognition that the role of the councillor in Wirral, and across the country was changing. These development programmes identify and help councillors manage that change

Feedback from this report showed that there was continued appetite amongst Members for their development, something which the take up figures of the PDP's and attendance figure also show.

This Committee recommends that Council reaffirms its commitment to the training and support of elected members'

The Chair indicated that he did not support this Motion and commented that it was not recognised that the Councillor role was changing and that he did not accept the proposals to move services out of area in the form of Constituency Committees.

The Motion was put and carried.

**RESOLVED: (6:4)**

**That there was a recognition that the role of the councillor in Wirral, and across the country was changing. These development programmes identify and help councillors manage that change**

**Feedback from this report showed that there was continued appetite amongst Members for their development, something which the take up figures of the PDP's and attendance figure also show.**

**This Committee recommends that Council reaffirms its commitment to the training and support of elected members.**