



COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN

**CABINET MEMBER REPORT FOR
DELEGATED DECISION**

**MOVING FORWARD WITH MEMBERS'
LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

REPORT SUMMARY

The Wirral Plan provides a 2020 vision for the Wirral Partnership to work collectively on a set of twenty pledges and harness resources across the partnership to secure their delivery. This requires Members to review and develop their skills, knowledge and expertise to ensure the Council can meet its challenges and realise all of its opportunities going forward.

In the light of these requirements and the Council's complex and significant transformation agenda going forward, this report seeks the Cabinet Member's agreement to recommend the **attached** revised Terms of Reference for the Member Development Steering Group to the Council for adoption and to agree the **attached** Local Government Association's (LGA) Member Development Outline Proposal to help change and strengthen Members' culture, development and support.

The Member Development Steering Group considered the Terms of Reference and the Outline Proposal at its meeting on 13 December 2016 and made some minor amendments which have been made to the appendices of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Cabinet Member be requested to:

- (1) recommend the revised **attached** Terms of Reference for the Member Development Steering Group to the Council for adoption;
- (2) note that if (1) above is agreed the political proportionalities of the Member Development Steering Group will be:

- Four Members from the Labour Group;
- Two Members from the Conservative Group; and
- One Member from the Liberal Democrat Group.

and nominations will be required to fill the places; and

- (3) agree that the LGA's Member Development Outline Proposal 2016/17 be adopted as the approach for moving forward with Members' Learning and Development.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To develop the capacity of Elected Members to lead, support and progress the Council's aims and objectives by adding strength and substance to the Member Development Steering Group's Terms of Reference, committing to the Local Government Association's Outline Proposal on Member Development and examining Members' future requirements etc.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Local Authorities have an obligation to ensure that they support effective Elected Members' working to provide and improve corporate governance, local democracy and local services.

4.0 MEMBERS' LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

- 4.1 Wirral Council recognises that Members have a pivotal role in taking forward its transformation agenda and that its success will depend on Elected Members having the capacity to provide best possible services to its residents.
- 4.2 All Members, whether newly elected or experienced, will benefit from the opportunities available for specific learning and continuing development in order to fully appreciate and contribute to the dynamic delivery agenda and to update and refresh the skills and knowledge required. All Members need to understand the scope and scale of their role in order to be able to identify the personal development needs that will enable them to fulfil the ever increasing individual and political demands.
- 4.3 Elected Members' Learning and Development is a key factor in ensuring the Council's continuous improvement. It is essential if the Council is to realise the full potential of its Members in an appropriate manner and it must be tailored to the Council's needs. Only then will Wirral fulfil its aspiration of becoming an outstanding Council.
- 4.4 Strong and effective leadership is the key to efficient, accountable and responsible local government. Members are 'champions' of their local communities. They make decisions, deliver change, challenge and scrutinise proposed actions, communicate the Council's plans and take up issues raised with them by their constituents. It is their responsibility to make sure outcomes are improved for Wirral residents, based on the Pledges they have committed to in the Wirral Plan.
- 4.5 Any Member Development Programme that is proposed must be designed to support Members in this endeavour and ensure the Council is at the forefront with regard to Members' support, learning and development opportunities. Measured learning and measured outputs resulting from it are essential. There is a wide

range of skills required against the range of Member roles.

- 4.6 The proposed approach will provide Members with the opportunity to access events and activities that are appropriate to their roles and responsibilities recognising the importance of their role within the Council, their constituencies, and with partner organisations and will ensure that the ongoing requirements of the North West Charter on Elected Member Development are met.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The guidance provided by the Local Government Association is free. There are not expected to be any additional financial implications. Any minor incidental costs can be met from the existing Member Development Budget.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is regarded as good practice for the Council to have an agreed Member Development Programme.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 7.1 There are no implications associated with staffing, ICT or assets.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Council's Leadership has been consulted and is in favour of the proposed Protocol.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality applications.

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APPENDICES:

- Member Development Steering Group's – Revised Terms of Reference
- LGA's Wirral Council – Member Development Outline Proposal 2016/17

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date