



City of Westminster

Standards Committee

Date: 26 March 2014

Classification: For General Release

Title: Member Development

Report of: Head of Cabinet Secretariat

Wards Involved: Not Applicable

Policy Context: Not Applicable

Financial Summary: Not Applicable

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report outlines what has been provided to Members since the induction sessions in May/June 2014.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Standards Committee notes and provides feedback on what training and development they feel Members could benefit from in the future.

3. Background

3.1 At the last Standards Committee meeting on 22nd October, Members made a number of recommendations with regards to a new programme of Member Development which would build on the Induction Programme delivered in May/June 2014.

3.2 This report focuses on what has been delivered since that time and the levels of Member attendance.

4. Training offered since the Induction sessions

4.1 Policy and Scrutiny

Internal workshops

Site visits have already taken place for the Housing, Finance and Customer Services Committee and there are upcoming visits planned for the Environment and Adults, Health and Public Protection Committees. Details of attendance at these visits are below:

Housing, Finance and Customer Services Committee

- Housing Options Visit 25th September - five Members attended
- City West Homes Headquarters/ Executive Team Visit – 3rd October – nine Members attended
- Ebury Bridge site visit – 30th September – five Members attended

Adults, Health and Public Protection Committee

- St Mary's Hospital Assurance Site Visit – 12th September – four Members attended
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust Inspection Briefing – 18th December – four Members attended
- St Mary's Hospital CQC Follow Up Site Visit – 13th March 15 – five Members attended

A series of Health and Wellbeing Briefings provided by an external provider have also been held for Members on the Adults, Health and Public Protection Committee and the Children, Sports and Leisure Committee.

External workshops

A number of Members have attended the Centre for Public Scrutiny Parliamentary Seminar series, meeting with Select Committee Chairmen and other Commons MPs to discuss questioning techniques, how best to collate evidence and hold an executive to account. The details of attendance are below:

- Parliamentary Seminar Series - 28th Jan – three Members attended
- Parliamentary Seminar Series - 23rd Feb - three Members attended

Sessions will continue to be arranged through the Scrutiny function and Members are encouraged to highlight any particular areas that they would wish to cover.

Information Briefings

Scrutiny Officers have provided to Members of their Committees briefings on various topics since September 2014. It is worth noting that there are 17 members who are neither in the Cabinet nor sit on a Scrutiny Committee and so these would not be briefed on any upcoming legislation on a regular basis.

4.2 Council-wide activities

There have been a number of training opportunities offered to Members since the induction sessions, as listed below, attendance figures have been included where information has been provided. All sessions have been advertised via the Weekly Information Bulletin

- Anti-fraud and bribery training, September 2014, five Members attended.
- Public Health training on new NICE guidance, October 2014, only one Member attended
- Care Act briefing, November 2014, attendance figures not available

Audit and Performance and Committee

- Procurement Seminar, January 2015, seven Members attended

All new Members of the Licensing and Planning Committees have also received training before sitting on the respective Committees.

Upcoming sessions include a presentation by Heathrow on what the expansion plans might mean for Westminster; this is scheduled for April 2015.

4.3 Ward and Community training

Directory of Officers

Once the new Council structures are in place in April 2015, a directory of key contacts will be compiled for Members and this will be updated on a regular basis. Members are invited to add whatever what other communication might also be useful.

The programme for this part of Member Development will be devised from comments from this Committee on how it might be taken forward.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

**If you have any queries about this report
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