

Policy Overview Meeting	Agenda Item: 6
--------------------------------	-----------------------

Meeting Date	4th August 2010
Report Title	Draft Member Training and Development Strategy 2010-2013
Portfolio Holder	Executive Member for Performance and Total Place
SMT Lead	Mark Radford
Head of Service	Monica Blades-Chase
Lead Officer	Joanne Hammond
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Reference number: 423
Recommendations	1. That Members comment on the draft Member Training and Development Strategy prior to its submission to Council on 15th September 2010.

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the Member Training and Development Strategy is to formalise the Council's arrangements for identifying and delivering Councillors' training needs.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Strategy was developed in conjunction with the Member Development Working Group over the past six months, incorporating examples of best practice from other Local Authorities.
- 2.2 The Strategy will demonstrate Swale's commitment to improving Member Training and Development and will be an essential reference document for Officers and Members when considering future training and development opportunities.
- 2.3 The Council has made a commitment to achieve the South East Employers Member Development Charter and the assessment will take place on Wednesday 20 October 2010. The assessment panel will be led by Mark Palmer from South East Employers supported by two Councillors from Waveney District Council and Surrey County Council.

3 Proposal

3.1 The Policy Overview Committee are asked to discuss and comment on the draft Member Training and Development Strategy prior to its submission to Council on 15 September 2010.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 Members can discuss the draft Strategy and suggest any amendments.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The draft Member Training and Development Strategy was produced in consultation with the Member Development Working Group and it will be discussed at the Group Leaders' meeting on 25 August 2010. The Policy Overview Committee's comments will form part of the consultation process.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The Council is committed to becoming a high performing organisation, which is supported by members who understand and are equipped to deliver their roles.
Financial, Resource and Property	Provision is made within the budget for Member Training and Development.
Legal and Statutory	<p>Local authorities are complicated organisations that are heavily regulated and must act lawfully when discharging their functions. They can only act where there is a legal power or duty and decisions taken by them must comply with administrative law principles. Members are often required to take complex decisions or to follow prescribed procedures and they can be challenged by individuals or organisations who disagree with decisions taken.</p> <p>Knowledge of the relevant legal frameworks is vital to support them in their roles as community leaders, advocates and policy makers. It also protects the Council from the costs and bad publicity that is likely to result from legal challenges.</p>
Crime and Disorder	None specific to this report.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None specific to this report.

Equality and Diversity	None specific to this report.
Sustainability	None specific to this report.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix I: Draft Member Training and Development Strategy 2010-2013