

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting30th August 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Review of Learning and Development Strategy for Members

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update on issues related to the Council's Learning and Development Strategy for Members.

Members noted issues relating to the Induction Training Programme, which had been undertaken immediately following the May 2007 Local Elections.

With regard to the Programme as a whole it was noted that some very positive feedback had been received, however, it was felt that perhaps the programme was intense in terms of timing and content and that members were overawed by the complexity and diversity of the authority.

Specific feedback with regard to the Planning and Licensing training indicated that Members had found the one day courses to be extremely informative. Training courses for Planning and Licensing had been provided by external specialists and it was felt that this should be continued on a yearly basis and be supplemented by in house training throughout the year.

Cabinet noted progress in relation to Member completion of Personal Support Plans and was informed that 47 Members had undertaken the one to one Personal Support Sessions. A matrix of learning needs had subsequently been developed which identified specific development needs and preferred learning styles which would be used when determining training and support opportunities. A copy of the matrix was provided to Members.

Cabinet agreed that significant progress had been made in enhancing the approach to Member Learning and Development and noted that this was likely to be confirmed externally by accreditation and receipt of Chartered Status.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. the timescale and format for future Induction programmes be extended to cover 'your first 100 days as a Councillor' which will allow for flexibility and follow up induction sessions.

2. Planning training continue to be provided, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report considered, each year, supplemented by in house training as required throughout the year to support the committees ongoing requirements.

3. Licensing training continue to be provided, as detailed in paragraph 11 of the report considered, each year, supplemented by in house training as required throughout the year to support the committees ongoing requirements.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Learning and Development Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2007. This report detailed progress made against the Strategy.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable.

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer
03 April 2007