

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8 FEBRUARY 2007

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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1 Summary

1.1 This report gives the committee information regarding the current and future arrangements for Member Development.

2 Decision issues

2.1 To ensure that the recommendations of the Standards Committee are referred to the Member Development Advisory group for incorporation into the Member Development Plan 2007 – 2011.

3 Background

3.1 In June 2006 Medway Council signed a certificate of commitment to the South East Employers Member Development Charter. This charter provides the council with a robust set of quality standards relating to member development.

3.2 The council now has an action plan that gives details of how it intends to meet the quality standards with a view to being assessed against the standards in July 2007.

3.3 A significant element of the action plan has been the establishment of a cross party Member Development Advisory Group. This group meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss, develop and agree issues that affect member development. This includes the development of a 4-year programme of training for members.

3.4 The Member Development Advisory Group has agreed a Member Development Strategy for 2007 – 2011. This is to be referred to Cabinet for recommendation to full Council.

3.5 The group also acts as a consultation forum with members representing the views and opinions of their group.

3.6 The group is currently developing role profiles for members. These role profiles will help to identify essential and desirable training and development that is designed to specifically support individual members.

4 Code of Conduct, standards and ethics training

- 4.1 The Member Development Strategy 2007-2011 recognises the significance of development relating to the code of conduct, ethics and standards.
- 4.2 It is vital that the Member Development Programme for 2007 – 2011 includes development opportunities that reflect the current and future requirement of the code of conduct, ethical considerations and standards.
- 4.3 The newly developed role profiles will also provide a means of expressing the specific behaviours, expectations and competencies related to conduct, ethics and standards.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1 All member development activities that relate to the code of conduct, ethics and standards will be met from the current member development budget.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 Thorough and effective training related to the code of conduct, ethics and standards support the probity of the council and its members.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Standards Committee recommend to the Member Development Advisory group the training and development requirements related to the code of conduct, ethics and standards for all members.
- 7.2 That the recommendations related to the various roles that members hold and also specify the needs for newly elected members and longer standing members.

8 Background papers

- 8.1 Member Development Strategy 2007 – 2011.

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