

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Democratic Services Committee.

1st July 2016

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Members Survey Results and Progress Update

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with an update on progress in implementing suggestions from the Member Survey.
2. To provide Members with a list of the priority actions from the informal meeting of Democratic Services Committee and note any progress that has been made.

Background

3. The majority of Members took part in a Member survey during the summer of 2015 which asked questions in relation to scrutiny arrangements, member surgeries, member development, online access to committee papers and Member facilities.
4. The survey highlighted many positive comments following the modernisation of the democratic process and also how much work had been undertaken in a relatively short timeframe.

5. All Members have been provided with a copy of the survey results, together with a note summarising actions that have been taken to respond to the survey findings..

6. Members of the Democratic Services Committee were invited to meet outside of the committee to discuss other areas that might be taken forward during the civic year 2016-17/ Four priority areas for 2016/2017 were identified:
 - Member Induction Programme 2017;
 - The development of a local guide in relation to what people can expect when they become a councillor,
 - The Member Development programme for 2016/2017 and
 - Members IT.

7. The four priority areas are subject to additional reports on this agenda.

Financial Impact

8. The four areas of work will need to be accommodated within existing budgets.

Equality Impact Assessment

9. There are a range of actions taken as a result of the survey which support the Council in discharging duties under the Equality Act 2010. For example, measures that have improved access to information at meetings; improved access to information via the Member portal; improved ICT facilities; variations in the timing of Member seminars to better suit those Members who have work commitments and/or caring responsibilities..

Workforce Impacts

10. The work identified can be accommodated within the existing staffing complement of Democratic Services.

Legal Impacts

11. The work is being progressed in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Risk Management

12. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

13. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

14. That Members consider the four areas of priority identified from the workshop session in April 2016 and if thought appropriate adopt those priorities for the civic year 2016-17.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

15. To ensure there is an agreed response to meeting issues arising from the Member survey 2015.

Implementation of Decision

16. For implementation after the three day call in period.

List of Background Papers

17. Elected Member Survey Results and Analysis,

Officer Contact

18. Karen Jones- Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services
01639 763284. k.jones3@npt.gov.uk
19. Neil Evans- Senior Scrutiny and Member Development Officer
01639 763747. g.n.evans@npt.gov.uk

20. Stacy Curran-Democratic Services Officer

01639 763194 s.curran@npt.gov.uk