

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

Member Induction 2017

Purpose of the Report

1. To gain Member support for a Task and Finish Group to be established to inform Member Induction arrangements following the Local Government elections that will take place in 2017.

Background

2. Local Government Elections will take place in May 2017 and current Members have expressed an interest in re-considering the Induction Programme that will take place following the Election of new Members to the Council based on their induction experience when they were elected.
3. The Democratic Services Committee has within its remit:

'to review the adequacy of provision by the Council of staff, accommodation, and other resources to discharge democratic services functions' and

'to make reports and recommendations to the Council in relation to such provision.'

4. Work is being undertaken by the WLGA via their Member/Officer Networks to develop a 'typical induction curriculum' for use by Local Authorities.
5. A workshop was held on April 5th 2016 with Members of the Democratic Services Committee where 'Member Induction 2017' was highlighted as a priority area of work for the Committee during this civic year.
6. The Democratic Services Committee are asked to agree that Member Induction 2017 be considered as one of their priority work areas leading up to 2017 and to agree that a 'Task and Finish' approach to the work be agreed. The 'Task and Finish' Group will report to the Democratic Services Committee and will meet throughout July and August 2016 with the aim of presenting a proposed approach to Member Induction 2017 in September 2017 to a special meeting of the Democratic Services Committee.
7. It would be of assistance if the Committee could provide any further suggestions to maximise the engagement of Members on this project.

Financial Impact

8. The Task and Finish Group proposed can be supported within existing financial resources.

Equality Impact Assessment

9. A well designed Member Induction programme would assist the Council in discharging its duties and responsibilities as set out in the Equalities Act 2010.

Workforce Impacts

10. There are no workforce impacts associated with the proposed Task and Finish Group; however any workforce implications that arise from proposals made by the Group will need to be considered.

Legal Impacts

11. This work is proposed to be undertaken in accordance with the function of the Democratic Services Committee as expressed in 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 of the Democratic Services Committee agree that Member Induction 2017 be identified as a priority area of work for the Committee.
15. That Members of the Democratic Services Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to meet during July and August 2016 with a view to making proposals for the shape and content of the Member Induction programme in 2017.
16. That Members of the Democratic Services Committee agree to hold a special meeting of the Democratic Services Committee in September 2017 to consider the output of the Task and Finish Group work.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

17. To ensure that Member Induction arrangements in 2017 are fit for purpose.

Implementation of Decision

18. The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

List of Background Papers

19. None

Officer Contact

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