

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

4th September 2023

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES- Mr Craig Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Draft Members' Development, Seminar and Training Programme 2023-2024.

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the Draft Members' Development and Training Programme for 2023/24 and the Member Seminar Programme for 2022/23 as contained in Appendix 1.

Background

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires local authorities to ensure the provision of relevant training and development opportunities for its members.

Members were surveyed in April 2023, and were asked:

- How would you rate any training that you have been offered or received over the last 12 months? Please provide examples.
- Would you like to identify any topic areas you would like to see in the Member Training programme for the next Civic Year?
- Would you like to identify any topic areas you would like to see in the Member Seminar programme for the next Civic Year?

The feedback to the above questions have informed the draft Member Development and Training Programme as at Appendix 1.

At the same time, a series of other questions relating to the democratic processes were asked, which have assisted in officers in framing the draft Member Development and Training Programme and also afforded members the opportunity to identify topic areas they would like to see in the Member Seminar programme for the next Civic Year.

The responses of which have been shared with officers, and built into the Seminar Programme for 2023/24 as attached at Appendix 1.

It is to be noted, that from time to time officers will request topical issues be raised with members throughout the year and the seminar programme will adapt to accommodate these requirements.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) also offer a full programme of support and development, which the Council will utilise to complement our Member Development and Training Programme, the details of which can be found at Appendix 2.

Financial Impact

The training programme will be need to be delivered through existing budgets or through learning activities that are at no additional cost to the Council.

Workforce Impact

The training programme will be delivered through existing staff resources in the Democratic Services Team, and other Council officers.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement, as this report is in relation to administrative matters only.

Legal Powers

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Risk Management

By not providing training opportunities for members, the Council are not fulfilling its duties as set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item; however all Members were consulted during the Annual Member Survey in April 2023 and invited to complete a survey identifying their training needs.

Recommendation

That Members approve the Draft Members' Development and Training Programme (and Seminar Schedule) for 2023/24 contained in Appendix 1.

Reason for Decision

To determine the Member Training Programme for 23/24, under the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Implementation of Decision

Immediate

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Member Training Programme and Seminar Programme 2023/24.

Appendix 2- WLGA Support and Training Programme 2023/24

Officer Contacts

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