

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	20 June 2016

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 – 2019

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 In line with the Council's commitment to member training and development, a Member Development Plan has been produced that sets out priorities for member development for the current term of office (with individual training needs addressed through Personal Development Plans). The Plan will cover the period from 2016 - 2019.
- 1.2 The Plan has been put forward for approval by the Member Training Panel.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To agree the Member Development Plan 2016 – 2019 attached at Appendix 4a.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

- 3.1 Blackpool Council is signed up to the North West Employers Member Development Charter, which demonstrates ongoing commitment to member training. As part of this commitment, a Member Development Plan is produced to ensure that member training is focussed, appropriate and in line with the Council's aims and objectives.

The Plan identifies key member development priorities from 2016 – 2019 and provides a framework for all member development. This ensures that training provided is appropriate and fit for purpose.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The plan is relevant to both Council Priorities namely:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Member Development Plan 2016 – 2019 has been produced following consultation with all elected members and feedback received as part of the Member Induction Programme, which ran from May 2015 to early 2016. The Plan also links member development objectives to the aims of the Council Plan.

5.2 Consultation has taken place with all elected members, the cross-party Member Training Panel and key officer stakeholders.

5.3 As a result of the consultation, three key priorities have been identified:

- Priority 1 - The changing role of the elected member
To assist members in the transition from the more traditional ‘can do everything’ approach for their constituents to a more facilitative role and also how to make the most of ICT to engage with their communities.
- Priority 2 – Building resilience in communities we represent
How to equip members with the relevant skills, knowledge and tools to effectively identify issues within their communities, build relationships with appropriate groups and communicate messages and challenge effectively, whilst providing their residents with the knowledge and skills to access relevant information and to find their own solutions to problems
- Priority 3 – Effective decision making, accountability and challenge
Ensuring that members understand the policies and legislation relevant to their particular roles, their accountability within the roles that they hold and how to challenge effectively.

- 5.4 Part 2 of the Plan sets out these priorities in further detail and identifies the different ways in which these can be addressed to accommodate different learning styles.
- 5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 5.6 **List of Appendices:**
- Appendix 4a –Member Development Plan 2016 - 2019
- 6.0 **Legal considerations:**
- 6.1 None
- 7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**
- 7.1 Officers will facilitate individual training events, as agreed.
- 8.0 **Equalities considerations:**
- 8.1 The Member Development Plan will ensure the relevant and timely development of elected members and assist them by providing the skills and knowledge required to undertake their roles and make decisions, in-line with legislation and Council policies. Group and individual training sessions aim to meet the individual needs of members.
- 9.0 **Financial considerations:**
- 9.1 The members' training budget will cover the cost of external training providers and training resources.
- 10.0 **Risk management considerations:**
- 10.1 If member training is not organised in-line with the requirements of the Council and the role of the elected member, members may not be trained appropriately and may not be furnished with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake their roles appropriately.
- 11.0 **Ethical considerations:**
- 11.1 A Member Development Plan, developed through consultation with elected members and officers, will support the Council's core values, morals and beliefs.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken the form of questionnaires, one-to-one discussions and group feedback with elected members. The Plan has been developed as a result of the consultation and includes suggestions put forward by individual members and the cross-party Member Training Panel.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days?

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 Date of Decision:

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 Date Decision published:

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1