

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Catherine Jones, Member Services Officer and Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2020

MEMBER TRAINING PLAN 2020-2023

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 In line with the Council's commitment to member training / development, a Member Training Plan is produced that sets out priorities for member development for the current term of office. The priorities inform the framework for the main training programme for members, for the period from 2020 - 2023 (with individual training needs addressed through Personal Development Plans). The plan was agreed by the Member Training Panel on 13 October 2020.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Member Training Plan 2020 – 2023, attached at Appendix 3a, with effect until 31 December 2023.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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 Training Plan is produced to ensure that member training is focussed, appropriate and in line with Council aims and objectives.

The Plan identifies key member development priorities from 2020 – 2023 and provides a framework for all member development. This ensures that training provided is appropriate and fit for purpose.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 The Executive could request amendments to the plan but as this would result in a plan that varies from that approved by the Member Training Panel on 13 October 2- that course of action is not recommended.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The Plan meets all the Council priorities.

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Member Training Plan 2020 – 2023 has been produced following consultation with all elected members, feedback received as part of the Member Induction Programme, which ran from May 2019 to early 2020, and one-to-one discussions with members of the Corporate Leadership Team. The Plan also links member development objectives to the aims of the Council Plan.

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

- Priority 1 - Decision-making and accountability
- Priority 2 – Community Leadership
- Priority 3 – Building Community Resilience

6.3 Part 2 of the draft Plan sets out these priorities in further detail and identifies the different ways in which these can be addressed to accommodate different learning styles.

6.4 The plan was agreed by the cross-party Member Training Panel in October 2020. The Corporate Leadership Team was also asked for input into the priorities identified and to comment on any other development areas to be included in the plan.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 3a –Member Training Plan 2020 – 2023

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The members' training budget will cover the cost of external training providers and training resources.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None

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, therefore unable to make decisions in-line with regulations and Council policies.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 The Member Training 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.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Member training will encompass issues relating to sustainability, climate change and the environment.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation has taken the form of one-to-one discussions with elected members, the Corporate Leadership Team and other key officers. The plan has been developed as a result of the consultation and includes suggestions put forward by all parties.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

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

N/A

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

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process?

No

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1

19.0 Executive decision:

19.1

20.0 Date of Decision:

20.1

21.0 Reason(s) for decision:

21.1

22.0 Date Decision published:

22.1

23.0 Executive Members in attendance:

23.1

24.0 Call-in:

24.1

25.0 Notes:

25.1