

To: Council  
9 September 2020

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**Member Development Strategy 2020–24 and Member Development Report 2019-20  
Executive Director of Delivery –Democratic and Registration Services**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The attached paper describes the member development strategy 2020–24. It outlines the principles, actions, success measures and responsibilities that define the Council’s approach to member development over the period. It has been created and agreed by the Member Development Charter Steering Group.
- 1.2 The attached annual report appraises all members of the work and progress on member development during the year 2019-20. The report informs members of activities and their outcomes and outlines proposed future actions. It has been approved by the Member Development Charter Steering Group.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That the member development strategy 2020–24 be approved.**
- 2.2 **That the member development annual report 2019–20 be noted.**

**3 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The current strategy covers 2016–20 and is coming to an end. The new strategy reflects the importance Bracknell Forest Council places on learning and development for all those who work to deliver good public services. The member development strategy provides a framework to continuously improve learning and development for councillors so they can be effective in ensuring the delivery of the Council’s priorities for the benefit of Bracknell Forest residents.
- 3.2 Under the current and new strategies the Council committed to considering annual reports on the progress of member learning and development.

**4 Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 None. The Council has committed to the Councillor Development Charter Plus standard and this option demonstrates a committed and strategic approach to member development which is driven by a cross-party steering group of members.

**5 Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The current member development strategy is coming to an end. At last year’s review the Member Development Charter Steering Group noted that the strategy should be revised following the development of the new Council Plan.
- 5.2 The Steering Group created the new strategy in a workshop which included officers from member development and the Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection. The group reviewed current and future activities for councillors in

Bracknell Forest against the context of the new Council Plan to create a member development strategy that supports the Council's objectives.

- 5.3 The Member Development Steering Group commits to reviewing the strategy at least annually to ensure it continues to meet members' needs, and to reporting annually to the Council on the progress of member development.

## **6 Consultation and Other Considerations**

### Legal Advice

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### Financial Advice

- 6.2 The costs associated with the member development work detailed in the annual report 2019/20 have been contained within the 2019/20 budgets for approved conferences (£10,220) and member training (£7,190).

### Other Consultation Responses

#### 6.3 Principal Groups Consulted

- 6.3.1 Member Development Charter Steering Group.

#### Method of Consultation

- 6.3.2 Meetings and emails.

#### Representations Received

- 6.3.3 All representations have been incorporated within the final documents.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 The member development strategy and the Charter Plus framework have an inclusive approach embedded within them, and regular evaluation of both will test this principle. Training in equalities issues is also a component of the member development programme.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 Councillors have a pivotal role in taking forward the Council's objectives, therefore effective member development is essential to ensure that councillors enhance their knowledge, capabilities, networks and experiences and learn new skills. Without it there is a risk that the Council will not be as well placed to deliver its objectives.

### Background Papers

None

### Contact for further information

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