

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

21 OCTOBER 2021

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the delivery of the Council's Member Training and Development Programme and related activities.
- 1.2 The Committee is also requested to identify topics for inclusion on the Member Development Programme.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being-objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Democratic Services Committee has the following functions and is supported by the Head of Democratic Services as necessary:
- i. Review the adequacy of provision by the Authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge Democratic Services functions, and
 - ii. Make reports and recommendations to the Authority in relation to such provision.
- 3.2 Increasing attention has been given to Elected Member Development. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 directed that local authorities place more emphasis on Member Development. Members are encouraged to identify their own development needs and participate fully in learning and development activities.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Member Training and Development Sessions

- 4.1.1 The following Member Training and Development Sessions have been provided since the meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 25 March 2021:

Date	Subject	Facilitator
12 April 2021	Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (UHB)
19 April 2021	Code of Conduct	External Provider, Bethan Evans
23 April 2021	Socio Economic Duty Webiner	Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager
29 April 2021	Blended Learning	Education Department and Central South Consortium
22 June 2021 and 2 July 2021	Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	External Provider, Bethan Evans
7 July 2021	Quarterly Member Update – Valleys to Coast (V2C)	V2C
20 September 2021	Appeals Panel Member Training (refresher)	Legal Services

4.2 **Briefing Sessions**

4.2.1 The following Briefing Sessions have been provided since the meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 25 March 2021:

Date	Subject	Facilitator
23 June 2021	Cwm Taf Morgannwg Test, Trace and Protect Programme	Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB / Shared Regulatory Services
15 September 2021	V2C Member Presentation	V2C

4.3 **Development Control Committee Training Sessions**

4.3.1 The following Development Control Committee Training Sessions have been provided since the meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 25 March 2021:

Date	Subject	Facilitator
14 April 2021	Future Wales 2040 – Wales National Plan update – Planning Policy Wales	Planning and Development Services
26 May 2021	Local Development Plan – Consultation Draft	Planning and Development Services
7 July 2021	Member Development Fire Safety Act 2021 – Building Regulations	Planning and Development Services

29 September 2021	Planning Committee Protocols	Planning and Development Services
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4.4 **Future scheduled Briefings**

4.4.1 The following Briefings have been scheduled:

Date	Subject	Facilitator
17 November 2021	Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of South Wales Police Presentation	South Wales Police
15 December 2021	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board Presentation	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
23 February 2022	Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	S151 Officer
9 March 2022	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Presentation	South Wales Fire and Rescue

4.4.2 In addition to the above, Quarterly Debate topics will also be considered by Council.

4.5. **Future Scheduled Member Training and Development Sessions**

4.5.1 The following Member Training and Development Sessions have been scheduled:

Date	Subject	Facilitator
6 October 2021	Active Travel update	Communities Directorate
22 October 2021	Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act	Education and Family Support Directorate
27 October 2021	Budget Consultation 2021	S151 Officer/ Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager
15 November 2021	Quarterly Member update from V2C	V2C
TBC	Safeguarding	Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate
TBC	Corporate Parenting	Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

TBC	Climate Change and Decarbonisation	Communities Directorate
TBC	Process for prioritising maintenance of Highways, Footpaths, Street Lighting and Buildings	Communities Directorate

4.6 Future Scheduled Development Control Committee Training Sessions

4.6.1 The following Development Control Committee Sessions have been scheduled:

Date	Subject	Facilitator
27 October 2021	Green Infrastructure	Planning and Development Services
8 December 2021	Minerals Update	Planning and Development Services
3 March 2022	Placemaking	Planning and Development Services

4.7 E-Learning

4.7.1 The Council has devised a range of e-learning courses for Members to support their learning and development needs. The provision of e-learning courses gives Members the opportunity to undertake their learning and development remotely at a convenient time at their own pace.

4.7.2 The following courses below have been provided:

- Corporate Induction
- UK GDPR
- Display Screen Equipment
- Fire Safety Awareness
- ICT Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Children and Adults
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

4.8 The role of the Head of Democratic Services is to produce and monitor the Member Development Programme, to collate any identified learning and development needs, and to subsequently use these to inform and plan the on-going Member Development Programme. The Democratic Services Committee is also encouraged to provide direction to the Head of Democratic Services in respect of the development and support requirements of Elected Members. This will include the priorities for learning and development and appropriate use of the Member Development budget.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

6.2 Member development enables members to make decisions, which can impact the communities they serve.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there is no significant or unacceptable impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Elected Member learning and development is resourced from the allocated Member Development budget. Reasonable allocation will be made as part of the annual budget round and applied with regard to the corporate needs of the Authority. The Head of Democratic Services will monitor appropriate spend on the budget. In-house training will be provided by Directorates if the topic relates to their service areas. The costs for this type of event will be met from within Directorate budgets and not from the Member Development budget.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is recommended to note the report and to identify any additional member development topics, briefings and e-learning topics for inclusion in the Member Development Programme and prioritise them accordingly.

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October 2021

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Background documents:

None