

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 13 MAY 2010

ELECTED MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ARRANGEMENTS - UPDATE

Report by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present an update on the Elected Member Learning and Development arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on 25 June 2009 (Item 9, Page 789, 07/12) approved the Strategy in relation to Elected Member Learning and Development.
- 2.2 In approving the Strategy, the role of the Political Group structure within East Ayrshire Council was recognised as key in supporting Elected Members in taking responsibility for their continuing professional development and Officers have been working with individual Political Groups to progress the Strategy.

3. ELECTED MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - PROGRESS

- 3.1 Following the Council's adoption of the Strategy, Political Groups were consulted and provided with an opportunity to comment on the role descriptors and associated skills and competencies developed for;
- Elected Member
 - Provost
 - Leader of the Council
 - Leader of the Main Opposition
 - Cabinet Member/Portfolio Holder
 - Chair of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee
 - Member of Governance and Scrutiny Committee

No issues were raised and these documents will ensure that learning and development activities can be tailored to the needs of individual Members to enable them to fulfil their respective roles.

- 3.2 All Elected Members have been issued with a copy of the individual role descriptor and associated skills and competencies for an Elected Member together with a copy of the role descriptors and associated skills and competencies for the specific additional roles which they undertake, as appropriate. In addition, information and guidance on Elected Member Personal Development Planning has been issued to all Members.
- 3.3 Officers within Democratic Services and Human Resources are undertaking one-to-one discussions with individual Elected Members to assist in identifying what particular support or development activity each Member

would find useful. Following each one-to-one meeting, Officers are assisting members prepare their individual Personal Development Plans as required.

3.4 The Improvement Service regularly holds a series of Masterclasses in addition to various other initiatives and such information will continue to be made available to Elected Members when available.

3.5 To supplement the activity outlined above, a series of Seminars has been arranged up to December 2010 to ensure Members are kept updated with changes in legislation and Council initiatives across a range of service areas. A schedule for these Seminars is shown in Appendix I. Notification for each Seminar will be provided in due course giving details of times and venues.

4. POLICY/LEGAL/HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implementation of the Elected Member Learning and Development Strategy will ensure that Elected Member learning and development needs are met which in turn will assist Elected Members in promoting/progressing the themes of the Community Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report and all proposals will be met from existing current financial resources.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Elected Member Learning and Development Strategy will assist Members to meet the challenges presented in a constantly changing Local Government environment and will ensure that Members receive an enhanced support to carry out their respective roles.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Council is asked to note the Elected Member Learning and Development arrangements and identify any further topics for incorporation within the seminar programme

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

22 April 2010
JMcG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Council's Elected Member Learning and Development Strategy.

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper relative to this report, should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services.

APPENDIX I

ELECTED MEMBER SEMINARS - 2010

DATE	SEMINAR TOPIC	LEAD DEPARTMENT/ OFFICER
Wednesday 19 th May (preceding Cabinet which will subsequently consider the matter formally)	Update on progress against the Health and Safety Improvement Agenda – Presentation by Peter Ralston, external adviser.	Depute Chief Executive – Elizabeth Morton
Tuesday 25 th May	Moving Forward with the Curriculum for Excellence	Education and Social Services – Andrew Sutherland
Tuesday 1 June	Treasury Management	Finance and Corporate Support – Alex McPhee
24 August (PM)	Driving up performance – an overview of our electronic performance management system	Finance and Corporate Support – Alex McPhee
9 September 2010 (AM)	Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults	Education and Social Services – Susan Taylor & Eddie Fraser
14 September 2010 (PM)	Winter Maintenance Policies and Procedures – preparation for the future	Neighbourhood Services – John Bryson
18 November 2010 (PM)	Equalities and Diversity – the new duty and the Council's responsibilities	Finance and Corporate Support – Alex McPhee
24 November 2010 (PM)	The Sustainability Agenda – our response	Neighbourhood Services – Chris McAleavey

Future Seminars

- Homelessness – our response and future solutions
- Private Sector Housing – our responsibilities and progress
- Civil Contingencies – responsiveness and resilience
- Serious Organised Criminal Groups – the risks presented to Local Authorities