

**Report to Constitution and
Members' Services Scrutiny Standing Panel**

Date of Meeting: 4 December 2006



Subject: Member Training Programme 2007/8

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Recommendation:

- (1) To consider the two responses by Councillors to consult on next year's training programme; and**
- (2) To advise on the shape of next year's training programme in order that the Head of Research and Democratic Services can commence on planning the programme, including the points set out in paragraphs 3 and 5.**

Report:

- ...
1. On 10 October 2006, the Panel decided to consult members on next year's training programme. Two responses were received and these are enclosed in Appendix 1.
 2. The Panel agreed the following points in principle:
 - (a) inclusion of a new course on being a Cabinet member - this could follow on from course M8;
 - (b) a course on advocacy skills - this may be best achieved by altering the Public Speaking course to give more emphasis to this aspect;
 - (c) a scaled down programme of Overview and Scrutiny skills programme - members are asked to advise on one or two courses which are considered priorities;
 3. Members are also asked to give guidance on the following issues:
 - (a) Repeat courses - do the Panel agree that these should be provided only if necessary?
 - (b) Tour of the Offices (M4 and 18)/Tour of the District (M14) - do the Panel see a value in these events? Take up has not been great and it should be borne in mind that they are resource intensive;
 - (c) M16 - do the Panel see value in these courses?

- (d) Courses M30 and 35 - were suggested courses which could be brought forward for next year. By next year, the Council will have new statutory responsibilities for Equalities - do the Panel agree that a course on Councillors duties in this regard would be useful?
 - (e) Courses M22 and M23 - these are pilot awareness sessions on specific services. Do the Panel feel that this kind of course should continue and, if so, which aspects of Council operations would be of most interest?
 - (f) M11 and M12 - two courses were held in financial matters - do the Panel feel that one finance course would be sufficient?
 - (g) M3, M17 - is the current pattern of planning courses suitable?
 - (h) M2/M9 - it is suggested that COMS training may require two courses rather than one;
 - (i) Overview and Scrutiny - Review Seminar - are the arrangements for a review seminar in 2006/7 to be followed?
4. The budget available for next year has not yet been determined. Assuming that there is no reduction, the programme set out above can be contained within the available funding.
5. The Panel may wish to consider whether any courses would benefit from being held in the daytime or at weekends. Some guidance on this would assist in planning the programme.