

	<h2>General Functions Committee</h2> <h3>19 March 2018</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Member Development Programme 2018 – 2022</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All Wards</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A – Member Development Programme 2018 – 2022</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance, 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>To support councillors to be effective in their various roles, it is essential that the Council has in place a comprehensive programme of briefings and other development activity. The attached Member Development Programme 2018 – 2022 details proposals for the post-election induction of new and returning Members and, in addition, provides an overarching strategic framework to Member Development for the next administration.</p>

<h2>Officers Recommendation</h2>
<p>That the General Functions Committee consider and approve the draft Member Development Programme 2018 – 2022 as set out in Appendix A.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Councillors are responsible for setting the overall policy direction of the Council and overseeing the delivery of a range of services, many of which are

complex or have a statutory basis. Expectations of councillors by residents are high – they want their Council to deliver high quality services and respond quickly to changing demands all within ever increasing financial constraints. To be effective councillors need to be able to:

- Represent the views of their political party and constituents;
- Contribute to the good governance of the Council;
- Understand local government and the legal framework that it operates within; and
- Be knowledgeable about local policy, services and communities.

1.2 In addition to serving on Council and committees, councillors may also be appointed to a range of outside bodies which have their own governance arrangements (e.g. school governing bodies, community organisations, charities, trusts and companies).

1.3 To ensure that councillors are as effective as possible in their roles a comprehensive Member Development Programme has been developed in consultation with the political groups and chief officers. The purpose of the programme is to ensure:

- There are clear expectations of Members in relation to training and development;
- Sessions are commissioned well in advance; and
- There is an understanding from Members about which sessions are mandatory, which are recommended and which are optional.

1.4 Subject to the Committee agreeing the Member Development Programme, officers will work towards having the Programme externally accredited via the Charter for Member Development.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To ensure that Members have appropriate knowledge and skills to discharge their roles of taking decisions and monitoring the Council's work.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The Committee could choose not to develop and implement a Member Development Programme. This approach is not recommended as it could leave the Council at risk of some decisions being successfully appealed by judicial review or other appeal mechanisms (e.g. Planning Inspectorate). In addition, Members may serve on committees or other bodies when they do not have the requisite knowledge and skills to be effective.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Subject to the Committee agreeing the Member Development Programme, the Governance Service will commission internal and external session and deliver the Programme during the next administration.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Providing a framework to enable Members to be effective councillors supports delivery of all Corporate Plan priorities.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The Members Allowances budget has a £20,000 available to support the activity detailed in the Member Development Programme.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Council Constitution, Article 7 (Committees, Sub-Committees, Forums and Working Groups) – the General Functions Committee has responsibility for “All other Council functions that are not reserved to Full Council”

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 As set out in section 3.1 above.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups foster good relations between people from different groups

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

5.7 **Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 Councillors are corporate parents to looked after children and children in care. In recognition of the seriousness of this responsibility, the Member Development Programme includes mandatory sessions on corporate parenting and safeguarding children in order that Members can understand their duties and obligations in this regard.

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 Chief Offices, senior managers and political groups have been consulted on the Member Development Programme attached at Appendix A and comments and amendments made have been taking into account in the drafting of the programme.

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 N/A

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None