



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2ND MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: WLGA CONSULTATION ON INDUCTION FOR NEW MEMBERS 2017

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Democratic Services Committee on the WLGA and Lead Members and Officers Network's proposals for new and returning Councillor Induction in 2017 as part of the consultation process.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Local Authorities and the WLGA have traditionally worked together to plan and support induction activities for new Members following local elections. Following discussions with Heads and Chairs of Democratic Services the WLGA are now seeking the views of Members responsible for Councillor Support and Development on possible ways forward.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires the Council to provide a programme of Member Support and Development including the induction of new Members.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The WLGA has recognised that the 2017 election will bring fresh challenges for Members and Authorities and that a change of approach in the induction for new Members may now be required. A draft induction programme, as attached in Appendix 1, has been compiled by the WLGA following discussions with Heads and Chairs of Democratic Services and the views of Democratic Services Committees are now being sought as part of the consultation process.
- 4.2 The WLGA proposal suggests that consideration be given to a combination of Mandatory and Recommended induction training targeted to specific Committee Members, Chairs plus 'All Councillor' modules. This Council has long since recognised the importance of supporting Members' many and varied roles with a programme of targeted training and development and already delivers a framework of training and development for a full Council term (4 years). This includes Induction, Mandatory, Recommended and Requested Training delivered through a combination of External Facilitators, Officer and eLearning provision.
- 4.3 The Caerphilly Induction Activities Programme 2012 included a combination of seminars, exhibitions, presentations and observation opportunities over a four week period and is attached at Appendix 2 for Members information and comparison with the WLGA proposals.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implication arising as a result of this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses not contained in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Democratic Services Committee consider and comment on the WLGA proposals in relation to Induction for New Members in 2017 as part of the consultation process.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure that Democratic Services Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process before it closes on the 18th March 2016.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 WLGA Induction for New Members in 2017
Appendix 2 Caerphilly Induction Activities Programme 2012