

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

29 September 2022

Present:-

Councillors A Saywell (Chair), D Sellis and C Slade

Apologies:-

Councillors M Asvachin, J Bailey, A Connett and L Hellyer

Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

2 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2022 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

3 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

4 **Member Development and Training Log**

The Scrutiny Officer and Deputy Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager appraised Members of the training and development opportunities since the last meeting and the future training and development opportunities.

The report highlighted the previous masterclasses and member briefings that had taken place since the last steering group meeting and the upcoming opportunities. Officers appraised Members of the All-Member Briefing on November 23rd related to the Race Equality Audit and the Head of Scrutiny's offer to run a questioning skills refresher in the Autumn.

Members and Officers discussed external training and conferences and acknowledged that the Council's current financial position meant that these types of courses would be limited in the future.

Members discussed the need to ensure that other Members take an interest and encourage others to attend these sessions or catch up with them on SharePoint.

Action: Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officers would utilise the bi-weekly Members' Bulletin to advertise any training that Members could sign up for and ensure key messages would be relayed more effectively.

5 Member Wellbeing Survey - responding to Member's queries

The Scrutiny Officer and Deputy Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager presented to Members the Feedback from the last Member Wellbeing Survey. This was an information sharing document detailing some of the asks that Members had put forward in the Survey that ran over the Christmas break of 2021/22.

Members discussed the useful nature of the document and ensuring all Members were sighted on the information.

Members discussed communications with Members and ensuring that Officers made use of the Member's Bulletin and the Sharepoint site as key methods of communication. This would streamline communications and reduce the number of emails that Officers sent to Members.

Action: Members agreed to run a fourth Member Wellbeing Survey in November 2022 to report back to the steering group in March 2023.

Action: Scrutiny Officer to share the feedback document with Members and upload it to the Members' Area SharePoint site.

6 Personal Safety of Councillors

The Deputy Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager appraised Members of the report taken to the Procedures Committee on the 20th of September 2022 regarding publicising the home addresses of Members on the Council's website.

The Procedures Committee agreed that the publication of home addresses would be a choice for individual Members, notwithstanding the legislation around register of interests.

Members welcomed the discussion on the item and agreed with the resolution of the Procedures Committee that it should be down to individual choice. Members discussed that while home addresses can show what community a Member lives in, being sent a letter or having a constituent come to their house were not the way constituents tended to contact their Councillors in recent times.

The Deputy Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager confirmed that any Member who wished to change their details on their councillor profile can contact her directly or the Members Services inbox.

It was acknowledged that whilst members attending this meeting did not feel worried about their personal safety regarding intimidation and abuse, that other members may have different views.

It was agreed that for the next Member Wellbeing Survey to include a question about personal safety to ensure any issues or trends are picked up.

Action: Officers to include a question regarding safety in the next Member Wellbeing Survey.

7 **Dates of Future Meetings**

Members noted the dates of future meetings, as shown in the calendar of meetings at <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>.

The next meeting is 1 March 2023 at 10.30am.

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

*** DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at Time Not Specified and finished at Time Not Specified