

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

5 FEBRUARY 2020

Present:-

Councillors B Parsons (Chair), M Asvachin, K Ball, R Hosking, C Slade and P Twiss

Apologies:-

Councillors M Shaw

Also in Attendance

26 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2019 be signed as a correct record.

27 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

28 **Accessibility of Digital Content**

Tom Dixon (Digital Communications Manager) provided Members with an update on new accessibility legislation which required all public sector bodies to improve the accessibility of their digital content and display an accessibility statement by September 2020. Tom outlined the approach that the County Council was taking to ensure that appropriate improvements were made to its own websites, including providing accessibility training for staff with responsibility for maintaining webpages across all service areas.

Members commented that many town and parish councils were struggling to interpret the legislation and were concerned about the resource needed to make the necessary improvements. Tom advised Members that the Digital Communications Team had created guidance to support town and parish councils which would be made available soon, and that this could be shared with Members prior to being finalised.

29 **Personal Development Plans**

Marion Geare (Member Development Officer) advised Members that recently there had been little take up of Personal Development Plans (PDP) and asked Members for their views on how this activity should be prioritised. Members agreed that PDPs should continue to be offered to all Members and targeted particularly at those Members who have not taken up the offer before.

30 Learning and Development and Member Development Schedule

Members noted that attendance had been good at Scrutiny Masterclass sessions and that these sessions were of significant value in supporting and developing their Scrutiny roles. The Commissioning Liaison Member role was also discussed, and Members considered that the role was very helpful in building a broader understanding of commissioned services within Scrutiny Committees.

Members were satisfied with the system in place which allowed Members to receive more in-depth training in areas of particular relevance or interest.

31 Shared Service Update

Marion Geare (Member Development Officer) advised Members that the Shared Service would continue with seven local authorities for 2020/21. Next year the focus would be on Developing Your Leadership Potential.

32 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 was scheduled for 28th May 2020.

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

The Meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.10 pm