

## Agenda Item

Executive Board

4 July 2007

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## Member Development and Training Strategy

### Summary

The Strategy sets out the Council's commitment to supporting Members in developing the necessary skills to serve the community.

### Recommendation

1. that the Development and Training Strategy be approved and implemented
2. that a cross-party Member Development Group be set up to advise the Council on all matters of Member Development and progress the Strategy

#### a) Reasons for Recommendation

The adoption of the Strategy by the Council will allow Member Development to be progressed. The Council recognises the valued contribution of Councillors to improving the Council's performance and achieving its priorities. By developing their potential, Members will be able to be more involved in the corporate decision making of the Council and in the improved delivery of services. For the strategy to be successful, it is vital for Members themselves to be engaged in the management of the development programme and a cross-party Group would help to achieve this.

#### b) Alternative Options

To be reactive to Council and Councillor needs without having the benefit of a designed Development Programme.

#### c) Risk Considerations

The need for Members to be engaged in rolling out the Development Programme is recognised as key. Without this the Strategy is likely to be ineffective.

#### d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

A Member Development Budget is already in place.

#### e) Date for Review of Decision

2008 – The Strategy will be reviewed annually.

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### 1 Main Body of the Report

The Member Development and Training Strategy sets out a proposed pro-active approach to ensure that a Development Programme is in place to meet the needs of the Council and Councillors themselves. This is an on-going/rolling programme to assist Councillors in their development and progression. It will recognise Members' diverse needs and learning styles with the aim of helping the Council to achieve its priorities.

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## **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications flowing from this report.

## **Financial Implications**

Any initiatives are already included in the budgetary provision for 2007/08.

## **Consultation on Reports to the Executive**

Consultation has taken place with the Devon Improvement Partnership (DIP) Democratic Services Group and the DIP Member Development Officer. The Resources Think Tank was consulted on the draft Skills Framework

## **Background Papers**

- DIP Skills Framework

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