

Notes of the Member Development Working Group

28th November, 2011 at 12.00 pm
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Foster (Chair);
Councillors Ali-Khan, Chambers, Idrees and Lines.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**
D Johnson (Director Human Resources).
C Kelly.

Clerk to the Authority
A Simcox.

Apologies: Councillors Eustace and Finnegan.

8/11 **Standards Regime – Member Training**

The Group received an update from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the Localism Act 2011 and in particular, the changes to the standards regime. Members noted that under the Act it would be a criminal offence to fail, without reasonable excuse, to comply with obligations to register or declare a personal interest.

Councillor Chambers reported that Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council was providing in-house training on the changes and members from Walsall would feedback to the Group.

The Group discussed the merits of providing annual declaration of interests to both their home authorities and the Fire Authority. It was felt that submitting declarations to both authorities was somewhat duplicitous. The Monitoring Officer would provide further guidance on this in due course.

Training on the Act and in particular the changes to the standards regime would be provided at a future Policy Planning Forum.

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9/11 Member Development Day – 8 December, 2011

It was noted that ten councillors had confirmed their attendance for the development event at the Academy on Thursday 8th December, 2011. A draft itinerary for the day was noted.

10/11 Member Development – Schedule of Activities 2011/2012

A schedule of development opportunities that were available to members throughout the year was circulated.

Members noted that a keynote speaker was scheduled to attend the Policy Planning Forum on 12 December, 2011, and would outline members' responsibilities in relation to health and safety under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

The Group noted that the Service was pursuing the Investors in People award and that a working group would be set up to lead on the process.

11/11 Member Induction

The Group would be undertaking a review of member induction activities to ensure that an appropriate programme was developed for any members new to the Authority in 2012.

The Group noted a Local Government Association (LGA) circular which detailed the fire service-related conferences scheduled for 2012.

Resolved that that a report on last year's member induction programme be submitted to the next meeting.

(Meeting ended at 12.46 pm)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Amy Simcox Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3736</i></p>
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