

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee 20 July 2023
SUBJECT:	Member Learning and Development
LEAD OFFICER:	Daniel Bainbridge – Monitoring Officer
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor David Huntley
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to “...promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.” [Chapter 7, para 27(1)].	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
A full and effective Member Induction Programme is vital to the proper induction all Members following local elections, together with ongoing training during their four-year term.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
No financial implications identified.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress of the Member Induction Programme for May/June 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to note the current progress of the Member Induction Programme and Member learning and development more generally.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. This report updates the Committee on the Member Induction Programme, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A, that is currently being delivered by Officers following the May elections.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1. The May 2023 local elections saw the membership of the Council change as it does with every four-year cycle of ‘all out’ elections. This means that post-elections there has been a mix of returning Councillors together with new Councillors who are either entirely new to the Council or who have been Councillors in the past but not during the 2019-to-2023 term.

- 4.2. It is therefore vital that *all* Councillors undertake a full induction programme that covers both the general subject areas of the Council's business, Councillor conduct and Member-Officer working, together with specific training aimed at those Councillors who will be members of specific Committees.
- 4.3. The programme was viewed by the Committee at a number of meetings in 2022/23, and it is important that the Committee understands why the induction programme is so important to Councillors both in terms of building their knowledge, and understanding what is required of them in their role and within the Code of Conduct.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1. Consultation took place with the Corporate Management Team and Senior Management Team in order to ensure the programme aligns with their principles of strong governance for the Council. Group Leaders were also consulted before presenting to Standards Committee for final noting at their meeting on 23 February 2023.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1. All local authorities run induction programmes following local elections, and therefore a 'do nothing' approach was never considered to be viable.
- 6.2.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 7.1. The costs of the Member Induction Programme are being met from the 2023/24 Law & Governance budget.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The risk of not having an induction programme, or having a sub-standard programme, is that Members are not aware of their responsibilities as Members, Committee Members and Committee Chairs, and as decision-makers across the range of the Council's business.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

- 9.1. The Monitoring Officer's comments are set out within the body of the report.

For items 10 – 17 below, there are no direct impacts arising from this report.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None