

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Standards Committee – 16 January 2025</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Member Learning and Development</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Daniel Bainbridge, Group Head of Law &amp; Governance</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor David Huntley</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to “...promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.”	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> A full and effective member learning and development programme is vital to the proper support for all members during their four-year term.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> No financial implications identified.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress of Member learning and development for the 2023-27 period.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1. Notes the current progress of Member learning and development; and
- 2.2. Provides the Monitoring Officer with any observations regarding future learning and development opportunities for Members.

## 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. This report updates the Standards Committee on the current position of Member learning and development as part of the ongoing development offer for Members through the 2023-27 period.

## 4. DETAIL

- 4.1. The Standards Committee’s ongoing function in relation to training is to advise and support the Monitoring Officer in the delivery of training on the Members’ Code of Conduct to District Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors and co-opted members. The Monitoring Officer’s view is that this should include Member training

in general and hence the Monitoring Officer welcomes the Committee's views and observations regarding potential future one-off and/or regular training opportunities for Members (subject of course to budgets).

- 4.2. An updated training matrix is attached as the Appendix to this report, showing the training undertaken by Members in relation to specific committees and more generally. There have been no changes since the last report to committee on 17 October 2024.
- 4.3. While the matrix sets out details of mandatory training required by the responsibilities associated with certain Committees, a number of Members have undertaken non-mandatory training as part of their development since the last meeting of the Committee. A number of Members have undertaken data protection training through the Council's approved training provider, HutSix, and an up-to-date figure will be provided for Members at the meeting. Meanwhile one Committee Chair has tested 'chairing of meetings' training from a separate training provider but the feedback was that this was not of the standard required in order to roll that out to all Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and officers are looking at alternative providers in order to continue to support Chairs and Vice-Chairs in this key area of their roles.
- 4.4. The Monitoring Officer is constantly monitoring the training and development of Councillors on all areas related to their work and welcomes suggestions from all Councillors regarding their individual and collective learning and development.
- 4.5. The matrix is published in the 'Useful Documents' library in Members Area on Sharepoint so that Councillors can identify suitable substitutes when needed.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1. Not applicable to this report.

## **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- 6.1. It is not a viable option to not provide Members with sufficient learning and development for them to fulfil their duties.

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

- 7.1. Any future Member development would and is met from existing budgets within Law & Governance.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1. The risk of not having a training 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