

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 6 DECEMBER 2023
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: DONNA LINTON

SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2024-26

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval of the Member Development Strategy for 2024-26.

Recommended: That

[1] The Member Development Strategy for 2024-26 be approved.

Background

2. The Member Training and Development Group (MTDG) works with officers to determine the future direction of member training and development and ensures that Member training and development programmes align with the Authority's Member Development Strategy and meets Members' and the Service's needs.
3. The Member Development Strategy sets out how the Fire Authority will further develop its elected Members to ensure that they are effective in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities. It provides a structured framework for the delivery of the Member Training and Development Programme, including the induction programme and helps promote continuous improvement.

Information

4. The MTDG had sight of the draft Member Development Strategy for 2024-26 and was invited to make comment. The MTDG felt that the Member Development Strategy should focus on maintaining the current training and development arrangements and also seek to introduce more virtual training opportunities, wherever possible.
5. A copy of the draft Member Development Strategy 2024-26 is attached to this report as Appendix 1 for Members to consider.

Financial Implications

6. The costs of implementing the Member Development Strategy will be met from within the existing budget. The budget has recently been reduced as a result of the Service-wide review of departmental budgets to identify savings. However, this has brought it into line with the actual annual spend, so Member training and development should not be affected.
7. The Strategy should help to ensure that resources are used efficiently to maintain the delivery of an effective Member Training and Development Programme that has been developed to meet Members' needs in order that they can carry out their roles and responsibilities for the Authority. The need for any additional training resources will be monitored.

Legal Implications

8. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. However Member training and development is important in helping Members to make decisions that ensure the Fire Authority meets its statutory and other obligations.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. There are no specific Equality and Diversity implications. However Equality and Diversity Training for Members is now included in the Induction Programme for new Members to be carried out within the first 6 months of them joining the Authority and as a core module on the Member Training and Development Programme.

Environmental Implications

10. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report. Environmental Awareness Training for Members is now included in the Induction Programme for new Members and updates will be considered for inclusion in future Member Training and Development Programmes.

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