

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 7TH DECEMBER 2016
REPORT OF: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AUTHOR: JOANNE SMITH

SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-18

Purpose of Report

1. To present the draft Member Development Strategy for 2017-18 for approval.

Recommended: That

[1] the draft Member Development Strategy 2017-18 (attached at Appendix 1) be approved.

Background

2. The Member Training and Development Group (MTDG) works with Officers to develop the future direction of Member development in the Fire Authority and ensure that Member development programmes are developed in line with the Authority's Member Development Strategy and both Members' and the Service's needs.
3. The MTDG has met to discuss the content and format of the Strategy to cover the period from 2017 to 2018 and the final draft was presented to the 4th October meeting. Members had previously discussed the development of the future strategy at the meeting held on 5th July and it was agreed that, whilst the Blue Light Collaboration programme was being implemented, work on Level 2 of the North West Charter would be deferred. Members felt that as capacity and resources would be impacted during this time officers should concentrate on ensuring that scheduled Member Development activities were delivered.
4. With this in mind it is proposed that the next Member Development Strategy covers the period from January 2017 to June 2018 and focuses on maintaining the standards already achieved and the development of the current provision. Once the BLC programme is implemented Members and Officers will be able to review Member Development support and consider future options.

Financial Implications

5. The costs of implementing the Strategy will initially be met from within the existing budget. The Strategy will assist in ensuring that resources are used to deliver a more effective Member Development Programme that

has been developed to meet Members' needs to carry out their roles and responsibilities for the Authority. The need for any additional training resources as the objectives in the implementation plan are progressed will be monitored during the year.

Legal Implications

6. There are no specific legal requirements arising from this report. However Member training will assist Members when making decisions helping to ensure that the Fire Authority meets its statutory obligations.

Equality & Diversity Implications

7. 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 joining the Authority and as a core module on the Member Development Programme.

Environmental Implications

8. 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 any future Member Training Programmes.

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