

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 7TH MARCH, 2016

REFERENCE FROM DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE:
10TH FEBRUARY, 2016

“ DRAFT UPDATED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (HDS) -

The Government’s ongoing Modernising Local Government agenda meant that Members had had to embrace, and adapt to, many different roles and responsibilities. The Leader and Cabinet model of governance, introduced in May 2002, had had a major impact on Members’ roles. Executive Members played a key role in policy and decision-making, with the non-Executive Members on the Council’s five Scrutiny Committees providing a valuable means of challenge (“critical friend”) and assisting the Executive in areas such as policy development.

The Wales Programme for Improvement placed a responsibility on the Council to maintain continuous improvement in service delivery, emphasising the need to develop new and innovative ways of working to improve service outcomes. All Members would have a key role in the process of challenging established patterns of service delivery.

Various statutory responsibilities were placed on the Council to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community and to lead and co-ordinate the preparation of the Community Strategy in partnership with the Council’s public, private, voluntary and community sector partners. Within this area, all Members had a key role in providing leadership and front-line representation to the local community.

The Strategy had been developed in the context of ongoing changes in Local Government and with a view to enabling Members to meet the challenges and opportunities presented to them, both through legislative changes and drivers in the County Council’s organisation, the way it delivered services and the way it worked with its communities. It did not set out to specify in detail the training that would be undertaken, when it would happen and who would facilitate it. Rather, it sought to reaffirm the principles that would govern the Council’s approach to Member Development and to set out in broad terms how the aims and objectives of Member Development would be met.

To provide the context in which the Strategy sat, the document began by setting out the Council’s Vision and Values. It then explained the overall objectives of Member Development within that context, before setting out the

role of the Democratic Services Committee and supporting officers. Finally, the Strategy outlined the structure for Member Development.

RESOLVED - T H A T the updated Member Development Strategy be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Reason for decision

To provide for Members an updated Member Development Strategy which, in turn, will inform the Council's ongoing Member Development Programme."

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Democratic Services Committee: 10th February, 2016](#)