

North Tyneside Council Report to Standards Committee Date: 6 March 2014

ITEM 7

Title: Training Update

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Governance and Employment

Wards affected: All

1.1 Purpose:

To advise Members of Member training events recently organised and the attendance of Members at those events.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and note the report.

1.3 Information

Members will be aware from the Committee's Action Plan/Work Programme that training is an important feature of the Committee's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members. At the last meeting of the Committee, Members were advised of recent training that had been made available to Members.

Under the Action Plan/Work Programme training in relation to the use of social media by members was a requirement/task to be delivered this year. In addition the Committee had requested that training be delivered to assist Members deal with difficult and potentially confrontational situations.

Face to face sessions for the social media training and for dealing with difficult situations were arranged and advertised to Members, however both were subsequently cancelled. The training for dealing with difficult situations will be rescheduled early this year – it was postponed due to a clash with the budget setting meetings.

The social media training was however cancelled due to the lack of take up.

A social media on-line training package has also been developed and is available to all Members via the Learning Pool. To date only 2 Members have completed the course although a couple of Members have fed back that they were having difficulty accessing the course. As a result the look and feel of the Member Development Section in the Learning Pool has been re-organised to help with navigation. The module will be promoted again with Members.

At the meeting in December the Committee expressed their concern at the cancellation of training events due to a lack of take up and that only two Member had access the social media training on the Learning Pool. The Committee requested that details of the attendance of Members at training events arranged for them be reported to this meeting of the Committee.

Details of training events and attendance at those events over the last two years is set out in the Appendix A attached to this report. The headline information contained in the data attached at Appendix A is:

- The average attendance at the 53 events offered to members is 4.8 delegates per course;
- The average attendance at regulatory committee training (including planning, licensing, regulation & review and appeals & complaints) events offered to members is 5 delegates per course;
- The average attendance at constitutional training (equality & diversity, code of conduct, safeguarding, corporate parenting) events offered to members is 7.5 delegates per course;
- The average attendance at general member development events offered through out the year is 4.5 delegates per course;
- Average attendance at events during 2012/13 was 9.2 delegates per event and in 2013-14 it decreased to 4 delegates per event;
- 18% of events offered have been cancelled; and
- 50% of induction events offered in 2012 were cancelled.

The Committee are requested to note this report and may also wish to consider how to increase Members engagement on training.

1.3 Appendices:

Appendix A – Member attendance at training 2012 - 2014

1.5 Contact officers:

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1.6 Background information:

None

Stephen Ballantyne

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