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| Meeting: | Cabinet |
| Date: | 17 September 2009 |
| Subject: | Member Development – Future Operating Arrangements |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Responsible Officer: | Hugh Peart – Director of Legal & Governance Services |
| Portfolio Holder: | David Ashton – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnership and Finance |
| Exempt: | No |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1 – Reference from Standards Committee Appendix 2 – Report considered by Standards Committee on 9 June 2009 Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference of the Member Development Panel |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the proposals concerning the redesignation of Member Development Panel to become a Cabinet Advisory Panel in light of its increasing focus on individual Member Development and in line with the Council's ambition to attain a Member Development Charter.

Recommendations: That

- (1) the Member Development Panel be established as a Cabinet Advisory Panel, reporting to the Leader of the Council as part of his portfolio for Strategy, Partnership and Finance;

(2) having considered the comments of the Standards Committee in relation to the size, political composition and working arrangements of the Panel, the terms of reference (attached at Appendix 3) and membership of the Panel be agreed as part of the future operating arrangements.

Reason: (For recommendation)

To continue improving the opportunities available for Member Development in line with the Council's ambitions and to better meet the anticipated growing area of individual Member Development opportunities.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

The Standards Committee considered a report on 9th June 2009 detailing a proposal to redesignate the Member Development Panel as an executive-side Cabinet Advisory Panel within the Portfolio of the Leader of the Council.

The Committee discussed the operation of any potential Cabinet-side Panel and the need to consider the membership in terms of proportionality and whether this would be applied. It also expressed a view that the Panel should continue its policy of “open discussion” on items before it

Cabinet Advisory Panels are detailed in Part 4E of the Council's Constitution and should be established in accordance with the rules on political proportionality. Currently the Member Development Panel is made up of four Members and therefore this would need to increase to five Members (3 Conservative and 2 Labour) to accord with the Constitution's requirements.

The Committee also discussed a proposal for the co-option of an Independent Panel Member from the Standards Committee. However, it was agreed that the Committee should engage with any issues affecting its remit, in terms of protocols, by an appropriate report process.

The Member Development Policy, agreed by the Council, was also considered and welcomed together with the commitment to achieving a Member Development Charter.

Options considered

The Standards Committee generally recognised the need to acknowledge the importance of Member Development and continue to seek improvements where offered and achievable. The increasing focus on individual Member Development was recognised alongside the fact that this area lay within the Portfolio of the Leader and could be potentially viewed as outside the direct remit of the Member Development Panel as a Council Sub-Committee.

The membership of the Panel will require consideration to align with political proportionality and should therefore be increased by one Member (Conservative).

Political Groups have indicated that membership should be as follows:

Councillor Yogesh Teli (Chair)
Councillor Jean Lammiman
Councillor Paul Osbourn
Councillor Brian Gates
Councillor Phillip O'Dell

Reserves:

Mrs Myra Michael
Mrs Vina Mithani
vacant
David Perry
vacant

In terms of Council-side protocols (such as Member Code of Conduct) these would remain the responsibility of the Standards Committee and the agenda for the Panel would be differentiated to recognise these matters which would be subject to an separate report to Standards Committee (as proposed on Appendix 1).

Why a change is needed

Individual Member Development is a growing area of importance and is defined a specific area of responsibility with the Leader's Portfolio. It is acknowledged that the remit of the Member Development Panel was wider than the Standard's Committee's own remit with regard to member training.

Implications of the Recommendation

Resources, Costs

Contained within the overall programme of meetings and existing resources.

Staffing/workforce

Contained within existing resources.

Equalities impact

None

Legal comments

Contained in the body of the report.

Community safety

None

Financial Implications

Contained within the overall programme of meetings and existing resources.

Performance Issues

Contained within the overall programme of meetings and existing resources and is anticipated to contribute to future performance measures in terms of the impact upon the external perspective of governance arrangements (which is now within the Use of Resources judgement in CAA) individual Member Development.

Environmental Impact

No change as all meetings will continue to be held at the Civic Centre in accordance with the defined programme of meetings.

Risk Management Implications

No change as all meetings will continue to be held in accordance with the current arrangements to ensure the appropriate promotion of Member Development and training.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

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| Name: Sheela Thakrar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: 17 June 2009 | | |
| Name: Jessica Farmer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the Monitoring Officer |
| Date: 16 June 2009 | | |

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

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| Name: Alex Dewsnap | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Divisional Director (Strategy and Improvement) |
| Date: 17 June 2009 | | |

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

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| Name: John Edwards. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Divisional Director (Environmental Services) |
| Date: 17 June 2009 | | |

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Pauline Ferris, Acting Democratic Services & Elections
Manager
020 8424 1269

Background Papers: Minutes of Standards Committee, Council's
Constitution