

FOR PUBLICATION

AGENDA ITEM

CORPORATE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM
DATE:	8 SEPTEMBER 2015
REPORT BY:	POLICY AND SCRUTINY OFFICER
WARD:	ALL
KEY DECISION REFERENCE (IF APPLICABLE):	N/A

FOR PUBLICATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS
FOR PUBLIC REPORTS:

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To share with the Forum a proposed development programme to enable continued elected member learning and development of the overview and scrutiny role.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To consider and comment on the proposed programme.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Chesterfield Borough Council has a strong policy commitment to organisation wide, continued learning and development to ensure ongoing improvements in all that it does.

- 3.2 The ongoing learning and development of our elected council members (councillors) is an essential element, particularly in helping ensure effective delivery of our overview and scrutiny function.
- 3.3 Overview and scrutiny is a key function of the council's executive decision making system, and has an important role in policy development and review, and in scrutinising key council decisions to help ensure the best outcomes are achieved for local people.
- 3.4 And as national plans develop for the greater devolvement of powers and responsibilities to local councils, we need to ensure that our overview and scrutiny function remains fit for purpose. Maintaining a supportive and ongoing learning culture for members underpinned by a corporate development programme will help achieve this.

4.0 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The draft Member Development Programme for Overview and Scrutiny is attached for consideration (Appendix 1) and is divided into 3 sections :
1. Scheduled Development for Civic Year 2015/16
 2. Ongoing Development
 3. Optional Further Development
- 4.2 The final agreed programme for overview and scrutiny learning will be part of the agreed Corporate Member Development Programme for all elected members. This will help facilitate the most efficient use of resource whilst providing comprehensive learning opportunities for all members.
- 4.3 For example this programme, though essentially designed for Overview and Scrutiny practitioners, may overlap with, and can also provide for, other members to be involved. (Note that a separate plan for officers is being developed but this programme can also provide for some officer involvement). And this approach to shared learning will help inform a wider understanding of members' roles and responsibilities to each other.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The Council's recently renewed Corporate Member Development Group has already seen the draft programme and will keep a 'watching-brief' over delivery. Councillors Tricia Gilby and Derbyshire, and the Policy and Scrutiny Officer are members of the Corporate Member Development Group.

5.2 Following consideration by the Forum, the Member Development Programme for Overview and Scrutiny will be considered at the Corporate Scrutiny Review Project Board on 17 September for a corporate view and support.

5.0 CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 There are no risk, legal or equalities considerations arising from the contents of this report. Depending on the final programme agreed however, there could be a limited amount of training cost to be incurred (see Appendix).

9.1 RECOMMENDATION

9.2 To consider and comment on the proposed programme.

10.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

10.1 To ensure ongoing and comprehensive elected member development to maintain effective delivery of the council's Overview and Scrutiny function.

ANITA CUNNINGHAM
POLICY AND SCRUTINY OFFICER

You can get more information about this report from
Anita Cunningham (Tel: 01246 345273)