



Elected Members Development Update

This paper is to update group members on the preliminary work being done for the development of an elected members charter/programme.

Study Trip to the Elected Member Charter Implementation Network for the South East of England, IDEA, London

This trip has been organized for the **18th February from 11-3pm** in the IDEA Building, London. There will be elected members, officers and charter organizers at this meeting, all of which are willing to discuss developing and implementing an elected member's charter. Those group members wishing to attend please inform Andrea Reid, NILGA.

Preliminary Research into Elected Member Training and Development

Andrea Reid (NILGA) and Angela Fitzpatrick (DoE) have been working together to conduct preliminary research into what elected member training and development is currently available in Northern Ireland. The following information is based on responses from group members.

Courses Elected Members have Attended

- Council Induction Training
- Corporate Governance
- IT Training
- Audit
- Finance
- Child Protection
- Emergency Procedures

Courses Elected Members would like

- Analysis of Balance Sheets/Finance
- Scrutiny
- Audit training

- Planning Regulatione
- Human Resources
- Other Committee Subjects

The above lists are based on a small sample size; we will require more in-depth investigations into what is currently being delivered by each Council. This gives an idea of what group members are experiencing. There are differences within each Council on what training and development is offered to elected members.

As regards potential suppliers of elected member development, please see notes below:

LGIU (as referred to in Councillors Handbook) - The core focus of this group's work is to deliver policy briefings. Other services include T&D solutions (have e-mailed them for more info).

APSE - Jan Mazzone advised that APSE would be happy to provide a range of tailored courses to reflect the needs of members and the changes in NI through programmes or individual workshops. To come back to us with further details.

CIPFA - Spoke to David Nicholl and he advised that CIPFA have run governance training for some councils here. He is to come back to me with further information in relation to other courses they could provide/tailor for members.

SOCITM - Doug MaClean advised that they have done some specific training for elected members e.g. use of laptops, on-line systems etc. Also some general work on member development and capacity building. Happy to put forward proposals for capacity building with costings, if required.

IDeA - Spoke with Charles Leslie who delivers the leadership academy programme (see brochure "development programmes for councillors/council managers 2007-08" on IDeA website). Also available are "free" councillor workbooks which cover generic e.g. influencing, chairing skills and specific areas e.g. traveller sites, planning etc. Happy to discuss tailoring these to NI if required. Also offer member mentoring and peer support to work with clients on a range of projects including capacity building.

It is envisaged that the work carried out in the baseline assessment exercise will give us a wider view on what is currently available within Councils and who is supplying these services. We will use this along with information we gather on our study trip to move this work forward.