

MEETING	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE	11 September 2012
SUBJECT	Members' Training
PURPOSE	Recommend the next steps with regards to Training development
AUTHOR	Councillor Dewi Owen, Chair of Democratic Services Committee. Vera Jones, Democratic Services Manager

1. What is the current situation?

1.1 The Council has committed to train and develop elected members to enable them to effectively accomplish all aspects of their work.

1.2 The Statutory Guidance under the Local Government Measure 2011 notes:

“...the Democratic Services Committee has overall responsibility for deciding what should be regarded as reasonable training and development opportunities as part of its function of providing support to members to carry out their functions.”

1.3 A programme of training for elected members has been developed and published for 2012/13. This programme was distributed to all elected members at the commencement of the new Council. The programme is a combination of courses which are internally developed and provided, training by external bodies, some specific to Gwynedd and some which are joint developments across the North Wales authorities. Any updates to the programme will be regularly communicated to elected members.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Additional Training - In addition to the above training programme, a number of members have identified specific areas of interest to them which they wish to develop and extend their knowledge to enable them to improve the way in which they carry out their role as elected members.

2.2 There is currently no arrangement to ensure a consistent fair approach in determining who is allowed to attend 'additional courses'.

2.3 Future requirements – In addition, statutory guidance for the Local Government Measure 2011 (June 2012) notes the requirement to ensure annual reviews of training needs for all members of the authority.

2.4 Currently there are no specific arrangements in place to respond to 2.3 above.

3. Recommendations

3.1 In order to ensure the best use of time, it is recommended that a sub-group of the Democratic Services Committee be established (with approximately 4 members along with the Chairman) to:

- Discuss the matters noted, along with any further issues in relation to training, with the Learning and Development Manager and the Democratic Services Manager

- Report to the next meeting of the Democratic Services Committee on the 11th December 2012

3.2 It is recommended that the Democratic Services Committee

- a) establish a sub-group of 4 members, along with the Chairman of the Committee
- b) receive a report from the sub-group in the next meeting on 11 December 2012