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## Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

### Member Management Committee

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

### Subject: Member Development – Annual Report

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## Executive Summary

1. This report provides the Member Management Committee with the Member Development Annual Report 2008/9. Member Development is a key component of the Council's Annual Corporate Governance Statement. The Member Development Annual Report details the achievements made in 2008/9 and outlines the actions to be taken in 2009/10.
2. The Member Development Working Group was established in December 2005. This Member group is key to the continuing improvement of Member Development and is essential for the Council maintaining the Member Development Charter award. It is proposed therefore that the group is reinstated for the 2009/10 municipal year.
3. The Member Management Committee is asked to note the contents of the Member Development Annual Report 2008/9, and to agree the continuation of the Member Development Working Group.

## 1.0 Introduction

### Member Development - Annual Report 2008/9

- 1.1 The Member Development Annual Report details the achievements made this municipal year, and lists all the development courses, events and activities undertaken by elected Members over the course of the year.

### Member Development Working Group

- 1.2 A working group consisting of a representative from the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green groups was established by Member Management Committee in December 2005. The group is instrumental in devising the array of learning and development opportunities that are available to Members. The group works on key projects such as the Member Development Strategy, new Members' induction and the annual seminar programme and is essential for the Council maintaining the Member Development Charter award.

## 2.0 Main Issues

### Member Development – Annual Report

- 2.1 Member Development is a key component of the Council's Annual Corporate Governance Statement, specifically in relation to the principle of *Developing Skills and Capacity*, where the Council states that it will ensure that those charged with the governance of the Council have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well. This work is detailed in the Member Development Annual report, which will be submitted to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee as part of the Council's Annual Corporate Governance Statement.

- 2.2 As well as reviewing Member Development activities in the previous municipal year, the Annual report details challenges for the coming year. These include:

- **IDeA Charter for Member Development and Charter Plus.** Leeds City Council was granted the IDeA's Charter for Member Development in February 2007 and it is up for renewal in February 2010. A new, more stringent assessment process has been devised, Charter Plus, and the Council is committed in principle to achieving this in 2010.
- **Personal Development Planning (PDPs).** Member Development are continuing to encourage more Members to take part in the PDP process and will be using the lessons learned from this year to try and get even more Members to take part during 2009/10.
- **Health Scrutiny Training.** A detailed programme of training has been devised for the Members of the Health Scrutiny board that will give them greater information about the health landscape in Leeds.
- **Political Awareness Training.** Member Development are working on a training programme for officers that will give them a greater insight into the work of elected Members and what it means to work in a political environment.

### Member Development Working Group

2.3 In order to continue to give Elected Members the opportunity to steer the provision of training and development for Members, it is proposed that the Member Development Working Group be re-instated along the lines to be determined by the Member Management Committee.

2.4 The Group would continue to meet on a regular basis and report to this Committee.

### **3.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

3.1 As the role of Members is complex and demanding, dedicated learning and development strategies which support Members and help them to lead the organisation are essential requirements for any Council.

3.2 Member development is recognised under CAA guidelines as a key means of building capacity in local government. In addition, leadership training will help to further the skills of more experienced Members who are ready to move into more challenging positions.

### **4.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

4.1 The achievements identified in the 2008/9 Annual Report were achieved within the allocated budget.

### **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 The Member Management Committee is asked to:

- note the Member Development Annual Report 2008/9
- agree the continuation of the Member Development Working Group as proposed in paragraph 2.3 and Appendix 2, and advise of any changes to the membership.