

This report is public

Member Development Framework and Programme 2026 - 27

Committee	Council
Date of Committee	16 March 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Councillor Chris Brant, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	3 March 2026
Report of	Monitoring Officer, Shiraz Sheikh

Purpose of report

To consider and agree the Member Development Framework and Programme for the municipal year 2026 – 27.

1. Recommendations

Council resolves:

- 1.1 To note the Member Development Framework for 2026 – 27.
- 1.2 To approve the Member Development Programme for 2026 – 27.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Member Development Framework was first considered and approved by Full Council in May 2023. The Framework emphasises the purpose and importance of Member development, the approach and opportunities to support Members in gaining the skills and knowledge needed to fulfil their various roles effectively.
- 2.2 An appendix to the framework is the annual Member Development Programme. This gives details of the initial induction programme of training following the scheduled elections, as well as more general briefing and update events for all Members throughout the Municipal Year.
- 2.3 As the Member Development Programme is updated on an annual basis, the full Framework is presented for consideration and approval.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary			
Finance	Signed off on the basis that any additional spend is covered within existing budgets, such as the members training budget. Rachel Ainsworth, Finance Business Partner for Resources, 13 February 2026			
Legal	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Shiraz Sheikh, Monitoring Officer, 5 March 2026			
Risk Management	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance and Insight Team Leader, 5 March 2026			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact	x			The Member development programme has the potential of delivering a positive impact across our communities, including those within the protected characteristics, equipping members to better understand their duty, and ultimately, allowing them to deliver better outcomes for the residents they represent. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance and Insight Team Leader, 5 March 2026
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	x			
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	x			
Climate & Environmental Impact		x		Not applicable
ICT & Digital Impact		x		Not applicable
Data Impact		x		Not applicable

Procurement & subsidy		x		Not applicable
Council Priorities	Not applicable			
Human Resources	Not applicable			
Property	Not applicable			
Consultation & Engagement	Not applicable			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 The Member Development Framework (appendix 1) was developed in 2023. Political Group Leaders unanimously endorsed the Framework, and it was subsequently approved by Full Council.
- 3.2 There are no substantive changes proposed to the Framework for 2026 - 27, as it has been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer and the information remains relevant.

4. Details

- 4.1 The Member Development Programme for 2026 - 27 is attached at appendix 2. The programme includes a series of induction sessions held between May and July 2026, many of which will be mandatory for newly elected Members. All events carry an open invitation to all Members.
- 4.2 There will be a number of Committee specific sessions, that will be mandatory for members of those Committees regardless of if they are newly elected or returning.
- 4.3 A copy of the approved framework and programme will be included in the induction pack for newly elected Members following the May 2026 elections, to ensure they are aware of the details of the framework.
- 4.4 Wherever possible, slides from training sessions and briefings will be made available to Members after the sessions via the MS Teams Member Channel. This will create an online library of training resources for Members to refer back to as required.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to agree the recommendations. This is not recommended as it is important that Members regularly review the development framework.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 Council is recommended to agree the Member Development Framework and programme for 2026 - 27 so that officers can proceed with relevant arrangements.

Decision Information

Key Decision	Not applicable
Subject to Call in	Not applicable
If not, why not subject to call in	Not applicable
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Member Development Framework
Appendix 2	Member Development Programme 2026 - 27
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
Report Author	Emma Faulkner, Principal Officer – Scrutiny & Democratic Lead
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Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Report of Statutory Officer, Monitoring Officer