

Report

Report to:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2008
Report by:	Glasgow City Council Representative on the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Group

Subject:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project - Elected Members' Development Sub Group
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ outline current work being undertaken by the Clyde Valley Elected Members' Development Sub Group

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Joint Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the potential benefits to be realised by taking a shared approach to Elected Members' Development by introducing a Sub Group of the Clyde Valley Group be noted;
- (2) that the remit of the Sub Group be as defined in section 4.4 of this report; and
- (3) that the Sub Group should proceed by identifying the key learning and development priorities which are common to the majority of Clyde Valley Councils.

3. Background and requirement for establishing a Members Development Sub Group

- 3.1. Following the May 2007 elections and the introduction of the single transferable vote (STV) the Scottish Government issued guidance stating that 'Councils should develop their own training and development packages for Councillors' ¹.
- 3.2. Since May 2007 local authorities have worked in isolation to develop and implement Personal Development Plans, training needs analyses, competency frameworks and learning and development programmes, leading to some duplication of effort within the Clyde Valley Councils.
- 3.3. It has been identified that resources for Elected Members' development is limited across some Councils, therefore there is a need for a shared approach to Members' development. This would eradicate duplication of work and create efficiency in resources, money and time.

¹ Scottish Government. Councillors' Remuneration P12

- 3.4. The Improvement Service issued a pilot competency framework for Elected Members in February 2008. Some local authorities felt that the framework recommendations were issued too late after the elections and as a result had taken steps to introduce their own framework or training programme.

4. Progress to date

- 4.1. All eight Clyde Valley member councils were invited to an initial meeting hosted and chaired by Glasgow City Council.
- 4.2. Three local Authorities attended the first meeting, although seven out of the eight have indicated that they wish to be part of the Sub Group.
- 4.3. One Council has declined the offer to participate in the Sub Group as they are currently taking part in the Improvement Service pilot for competency framework.
- 4.4. The under noted remit was agreed, with the proviso that this could change as the sub group developed:-
- *to seek out subjects or aspects of training or learning which might benefit from a shared approach;*
 - *to agree to construct a business case for change (or for maintaining the status quo);*
 - *to recognise that there remains scope to maintain individual approaches where appropriate;*
 - *to facilitate the delivery of the new model across the Clyde Valley; and*
 - *to quantify the savings and benefits achieved from the new way of working.*
- 4.5. Each local authority was asked to identify the training content they currently have or plan to deliver for Elected Members' Development, so that the Sub Group could establish what areas of training/development were required most urgently and hence to prioritise areas for development.
- 4.6. The Sub Group will initially meet on a fortnightly basis.

5. Current developmental priorities for Elected Members

- 5.1. Glasgow City Council has requested a response from all Clyde Valley Authorities. Once this information has been collated a report will be produced that identifies the current development areas for Members' development and highlights the priority areas on which the Sub Group should focus.

6. Reporting Mechanisms

- 6.1. It was agreed that clear reporting channels be established for all groups currently looking at Members' Development.
- 6.2. The Scottish Members' Services Development Network (SMSDN) was established several years ago to allow Members' Services staff from across Scotland to come together to share ideas and practices, to look at Member and staff development as well as a wide range of issues affecting staff who work in this field. The Members'

Services Manager from Glasgow City Council will report into the SMSDN on behalf of the Clyde Valley Sub Group.

- 6.3. The Sub Group is chaired by an officer from Glasgow City Council who will report to the Clyde Valley Implementation Steering Group.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. Staff within administration or member services, as appropriate, from participating authorities will be required to liaise with their counterparts in each authority to co-ordinate training and learning events.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. It is anticipated that the shared approach will generate significant savings against the cost of delivery for each of the participating Councils.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. None.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. No impact assessment is required at this stage.

Jackie Anderson

Glasgow City Council Representative

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Group

27 May 2008

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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