



City of Westminster

Standards Committee

Date:	9 July 2015
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Member Development: Reception and Review
Report of:	Head of Cabinet Secretariat
Wards Involved:	Not Applicable
Policy Context:	Not Applicable
Financial Summary:	Not Applicable
Report Author:	Doug Precey
Contact Details:	Head of Cabinet Secretariat
	Tel: 020 7641 5614
	Email: dprecey@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the reception for Members and frontline officers that took place on 16th June and feedback from Members on the support that they receive and future thoughts.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee notes and provides feedback on how they feel Member Development might progress in the future.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the last Standards Committee meeting on 25th March, Members reviewed what workshops and information sessions had been provided since the election in May 2014.
- 3.2 This report focuses on the reception held for Members and officers on 16th June and the feedback received from Members regarding the level of support that they receive across the Council and what they might like to see in the future in regards to any Member Development programme.

4. Reception for Members and frontline officers

- 4.1 The reception was held on the evening of Tuesday 16th June 2015 and all backbench Members, plus the Chief Whip of the Majority Party and the Leader of the Council were invited.
- 4.2 The purpose of the reception was to introduce Members to officers who they might interact with on a day-to-day basis, so it was decided that frontline officers should be invited rather than members of the Executive Management Team (EMT) or more senior officers.
- 4.3 In total, fourteen Members and twenty four officers attended (a full list of attendees is attached as Appendix A). The cost of the event was £200 including food and drink. The Lord Mayor kindly donated the use of her rooms for the occasion.

5. Members feedback on support provided

- 5.1 From the few responses received it would seem Members are happy with the support provided by the Member Services team, although the question was aimed at addressing the support provided by all officers and not just this specific team.
- 5.2 Comments were received about the Policy & Scrutiny function in terms of the length of reports and the examination of Cabinet Members at the meetings, as well as a modest amount of support for future workshops on various issues.
- 5.3 There was mention of a contact list of officers. A list of contacts for all the officers who attended the reception was sent to all Members who attended the session and a full Council directory is being compiled. This will take a little time as not all posts have been filled following the Council's restructure.
- 5.4 A full list of responses is provided at Appendix B.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The cost of the reception was £200. This was funded from the Member Services budget. If future events are held, consideration should be given to whether the Member Development budget would be more appropriate. At present, this budget is used solely for the cost of conferences or training courses attended by Members.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

**If you have any queries about this report
please contact: Doug Precey, Head of Cabinet Secretariat
Tel: 020 7641 5614
Email: dprecey@westminster.gov.uk**