

**OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL****ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY****KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

To approve a revised Elected Member Development Strategy, in accordance with County Council requirements.

BACKGROUND:

1. In March 2011 and again in March 2013, the County Council approved an Elected Member Development Strategy. It was agreed that the Strategy would be reviewed every other year. Accordingly, the Member Development Steering Group (MDSG) has revised the Strategy to take account of developments in learning and development as well as the outcome of the recent Member Development Charter reassessment.
2. In addition, the MDSG has taken the opportunity to build in to the Strategy plans for the induction of the new council in 2017, as well as making reference to formalising processes for using feedback from councillors newly elected at that point to inform future activity.
3. Another significant addition to the Strategy is the introduction of a 180° feedback process for Members. This will be intended to provide a peer assessment of individual Members' development needs and will be offered to all Members, with an expectation that those in positions attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance will attend. A pilot of the process is due to start this year and the MDSG will be involved in its development and assessment of its success and suitability. Appendix A to the Strategy, the Member Development Framework, has been updated to include this process in years 2 and 3 of the Council's four year term.
4. Three appendices are usually attached to the Strategy. Only two are included here, Appendices A and C, as further consideration is needed regarding the Members' Role Profiles, which constitute Appendix B. Over the next few months the MDSG will be invited to consider the whole suite of role profiles to ensure they are comprehensive and take into account any new roles while avoiding unnecessary duplication. The generic Surrey County Councillor role profile will also be amended to include reference to the Seven Standards of Public Life. Once the role profiles have been amended and agreed by the MDSG, the Member-Officer Protocol published in the Constitution will be amended accordingly.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>

It is recommended that the Elected Member Development Strategy be approved.

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Sources/background papers:

Elected Member Development Strategy March 2011 and March 2013

Agenda and minutes of the Member Development Steering Group meetings
5 March 2015, 4 June 2015