

Member Support and Development Committee

17 April 2024

Present: Mrs S Hoss (Chair)
Councillor D Clements, Councillor M James, Dr R Plummer,
Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall and Councillor M Wiggins.

Also in attendance: G Jones (Democratic Services Officer), T Jones (Chief Executive) and C Llewellyn (Democratic Services Manager).

(Virtual Meeting: 2.00pm – 3:00pm)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J James, Councillor R Jordan and Councillor A Wilcox.

2. Disclosures

Dr RM Plummer made a declaration as a Welsh Government Senior Independent Member for Public Appointments however she remained in the meeting and played a full part in the discussions.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 06 December 2023 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Dr RM Plummer, seconded by Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 06 December 2023 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Action Log and Matters Arising

Members noted the action log. Further to a discussion held at the last meeting, the Chair requested that the matter of Training be featured as a regular agenda item at future meetings to provide an opportunity to discuss elements of training such as topics and attendance. This was noted by the Officer.

Noted.

5. Update on Member Support & Development

The Chair welcomed the Democratic Services Manager who presented an update on matters related to Member Support & Development including Personal Development Reviews, the Training Plan, Wales Councillor Support Self Evaluation Framework, Welsh Government Training Sessions and Member attendance.



A) Personal Development Reviews

It was confirmed that following feedback from Members, future IT training sessions would be conducted on a one-to-one basis.

B) Training Plan

A Member suggested that feedback be provided to both internal and external training providers in future as there was always scope for development in delivery.

A discussion ensued regarding Members attendance at training and whether anything could be done to further encourage attendance. It was agreed that details of learning outcomes could be included as part of the training invitation to motivate Members to attend.

C) Wales Councillor Support Self Evaluation Framework

It was agreed that the framework featured several insightful questions that were relevant to the Authority. The Officer confirmed that contact had been made with the Welsh Local Government Association to discuss the creation of a similar document for the National Park Authorities.

D) Welsh Government Training Sessions

Feedback was provided by Members regarding the Welsh Government training, and this was noted by the Officer to be relayed to Welsh Government.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Mrs S Hoss, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- i) the Members Training Plan 2024 be approved
- ii) the remainder of the report be noted

6. Update on Welsh Members' Seminar 2024

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive who provided a verbal update regarding the arrangements for the Welsh Members Seminar 2024.

Members had previously suggested 'Young People' as a theme for the Seminar however it was determined by Officers that such as theme could be challenging due to the conflicting commitments of the young people. An alternative theme of 'National Parks for All?' was proposed by the Chief Executive and a draft itinerary associated to this was presented to Members. The Chief Executive took Members through the itinerary and sought their views on the suggested activities and topics to be covered. It was added that an invitation for the Seminar would be extended to the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning, Julie James MS.



A discussion ensued regarding the proposed theme and areas of the Authority's work that could be showcased as a result to allow wider representation and inclusion. It was agreed that the theme would offer the opportunity to further understand the challenges faced by individuals and ways in which accessibility could be improved within the Parks. The Members offered several suggestions for other potential activities and Speakers, all of which were noted by the Officer.

The Members suggested a sea swim as a potential activity however due to health & safety considerations, it was confirmed that this activity would not be scheduled as part of the Seminar programme and so Members would need to complete this activity in their own time and at their own risk should they wish to.

It was confirmed that a draft programme would need to be circulated before Summer. The Chief Executive invited any further suggestions for the Seminar to be sent to him via email.

Noted.

