

REPORT TO:	ETHICS COMMITTEE 11 February 2021
SUBJECT:	MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT 2020-21 UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER:	JACQUELINE HARRIS BAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES & MONITORING OFFICER
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: The Council has determined that the Ethics Committee shall be responsible for receiving reports from the Monitoring Officer on matters of probity and ethics for consideration.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT: There are no additional financial implications arising from the contents of this report.	

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with a log of Member Learning and Development activity to date in the 2020-21 Municipal Year. This activity is led and monitored by the Member Learning and Development Panel.
- 1.2 The role of the Members' Learning and Development Panel is to co-ordinate a training and development programme for Members.

2. MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY 2020-21

- 2.1 The Council has a £21,000 annual budget for Member training and conferences, £1569 has been spent in 2020-21. This is managed through the cross party Member Learning and Development Panel.
- 2.2 As a result of the covid-19 pandemic, the ability for Members to attend external training has been severely impeded over the last year. Following the Council issuing a Section 114 notice in November 2020 and the issuing of the Report in the Public Interest by the Council's external auditors, much of the training activity has involved briefing Members on the response to the Council's financial position and financial governance.

2.3 Activity in the 2020-21 Municipal Year has been as follows:

Internal Training Events

Event	Date	Attendance
Licensing Training	20/9/20	20
Member Briefings on S114	September 2020	All Members Invited
Member Briefing on RIPI	October 2020	All Members Invited
Member Briefing on the Strategic Review of Companies	November 2020	All Members Invited
Scrutiny Briefing on the Strategic Review of Companies	November 2020	6
LGPS and Regulatory Funding (Pensions Committee)	December 2020	8
CYP Scrutiny on the Education Budget	January 2021	8

2.4 Four Members have also used the available training budget to attend external training courses and events. The courses attended in 2020-21 are as follows:-

External Training

Event	Date	Attendance
Benefits for Non-Benefits Advisors	1-2 October 2020	Individual
Working Together to Safeguard Children & Young People – Government Events	10 November 2020	Individual
Online Chairing Skills for Virtual Meetings	October 2020	Individual
Cyber Security	19 November 2020	Individual

3. MEMBER LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT 2021/22

3.1 Members' learning and development will continue to be focussed towards responding to the challenges facing the Council. The action plans arising from the Report in the Public Interest and the Strategic Review of Companies have identified a number of areas of training need for Members which will need to be scheduled. These include the need to improve Members' awareness of Council finances, investments and risk. There will also be specific training for Cabinet Members on financial and risk management, as well as development training for the Leader.

3.2 A review of Croydon's Scrutiny function by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny is due to be published in February 2021. There will be a range training that will need to be arranged for Scrutiny Members as a result of this review.

- 3.3 The Members' Learning and Development Panel will continue to monitor the training requirements of Members to ensure that training is focussed towards those areas of greatest need. As there are Council elections in 2022, another area of focus for the Panel will be preparing an induction programme for any new Councillors.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial or other implications arising from this report.

Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Assurance and Risk.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Simon Trevaskis

Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer – Scrutiny

APPENDICES:

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None