

REPORT TO:	GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 25 November 2021
SUBJECT:	GPAC Member development
LEAD OFFICER:	Richard Ennis, Corporate Director Resources (interim)
WARDS:	All

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All training delivered or proposed has been at zero cost to the council. Any further training will either be on the same basis, or contained within the existing Member Development budget of £21,000.

RECOMMENDATION

General Purposes and Audit Committee is recommended to:

1. Note training delivered and planned for the Committee
2. Suggest any further training required for the Committee during 2021/22 or as part of Member induction in 2022.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on training delivered and planned for members of the General Purposes and Audit Committee.

2. DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 2.1 On 22nd November a learning and development session was scheduled to take place for members of the General Purposes and Audit Committee. Led by the Local Government Association, the session was designed to address training requirements identified in the Report in the Public Interest, and to include:
 - Roles and responsibilities of the Committee (and officers reporting to it)
 - Understanding the control system
 - Risk management
 - Appropriate challenge and escalation.
- 2.2 It is further proposed to schedule a session for the Committee to meet with Scrutiny Members to develop a shared understanding of the respective responsibilities of scrutiny and audit committees. This will be facilitated by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and the Local Government Association.
- 2.3 Both of the above sessions are being provided by the Local Government Association with Government funding, at no cost to the Council.

- 2.4 Members of the Committee are asked to advise of any further training requirements at this time.
- 2.5 Work is underway to plan the induction programme for Members from May 2022 onwards and it is intended to repeat the sessions above for the new intake of Committee members. Members are asked to advise if any additional training should be provided, or any adjustments made.
- 2.6 This training is provided as part of a wider programme of Member learning and development.

3. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The proposed training is delivered to the Council at nil cost. Any further training needs which may be identified as required will be met from existing budgets.

Approved by: Matt Davis, Interim Deputy s151 Officer.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the interim Director of Law and Governance that training and development is important for all councillors, both those who are new and those who are more established, to enable them to be effective in their roles, to understand the specific requirements of local governance and to protect the Council from legal challenge, particularly in relation to regulatory decision making.
- 4.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's publication Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2018 edition) provides a specific knowledge and skills framework for members of an audit committee.
- 4.3 The Members' Code of Conduct and the constitution adopted by the Council also sets out training for councillors which is mandatory.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 5.1 There are no immediate Human Resources impacts arising from this report for Council staff or employees.

Approved by: Gillian Bevan, Head of HR Resources and Assistant Chief Executives

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1 Approved by: Denise McCausland, Equality Programme Manager

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.1 There is no environmental impact arising from this report.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

8.1 There is no crime and disorder impact arising from this report.

9. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

No.

9.2 **HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

No.

Approved by: Richard Ennis, Corporate Director Resources

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

10.1 To inform the development of further training for members of General Purposes and Audit Committee.

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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None