

Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 16 November 2023
Subject:	Elected Member Development – Mandatory Courses for All Councillors		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member Regulatory Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek Council's formal approval for completion requirements in respect of the courses designated as mandatory for elected members, as detailed in paragraph 1.0 to the report, and for Climate Change training to be added as a mandatory course, as detailed in paragraph 2.0.

Recommendations:

Council is requested to approve:

- (1) The Elected Member mandatory course completion requirements, as detailed in paragraph 1.0 to the report.
- (2) That Climate Change training be designated as mandatory for Elected Members with a completion requirement of every four years (per Councillor Term of Office).

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To obtain formal Council approval for completion requirements for elected member mandatory courses and for Climate Change training to be added as a mandatory course for completion by councillors.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None directly

(B) Capital Costs

None directly

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): There are no direct financial costs associated with the courses listed as mandatory in the Member Development Programme as all of the courses are provided in-house.	
Legal Implications There are no legal implications.	
Equality Implications: There are no direct equality implications – but the mandatory Equality and Diversity Awareness course helps foster Councillor awareness of equality issues and actively promotes equality.	
Impact on Children and Young People None directly	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
Comment: The course on Climate Emergency training is now included in the Member Development Handbook for Councillors to undertake via e-Learning. This is currently an optional course subject to Council giving approval for it to be added to the list of mandatory courses for elected members.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The Member Development Programme offers a number of mandatory courses to help Councillors fulfil their role in protecting the vulnerable in our community – i.e., Safeguarding Adults Awareness, Safeguarding Children and Young People, Corporate Parenting and Equality and Diversity Awareness.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The Member Development Programme helps provide Councillors with the requisite skills and knowledge help them effectively lead and support their residents to help facilitate confident and resilient local communities.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not directly applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Not directly applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not directly applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not directly applicable .
Greater income for social investment: Not directly applicable .
Cleaner Greener Sefton Council is committed to protecting the environment and the Council plays a vital role in determining how the Borough tackles the Climate emergency. Designation of the Climate Change training as mandatory for elected members will help ensure they are fully apprised of the issues.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7418/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5618/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

None

1.0 Mandatory Training for All Councillors

1.1 On 21 April 2022, full Council approval was given for the courses listed below to be mandatory for all Councillors.

- (1) Information Compliance, Sharing and Guarding (e-learning)
- (2) Safeguarding Adults Awareness (e-learning)
- (3) Safeguarding Children and Young People (e-learning)
- (4) Corporate Parenting (held remotely on Teams – held 4 times per year to maximise take-up)
- (5) Equality and Diversity Awareness

1.2 At its first meeting on 1 November 2022, the Member Development Steering Group (MDSG) considered how often elected members should be required to repeat each of these mandatory courses and agreed that the mandatory courses (2), (3), (4) and (5) should be completed every four years (per Councillor Term of Office) with the exception of (1). Information Compliance, Sharing and Safeguarding which should be completed on an annual basis, in line with the requirement for Council officers.

2.0 Climate Change Training

Climate Change training is currently listed as an optional course in the Member Development Handbook. However, given the Council's commitment to responding to the climate emergency as set out in the Climate Emergency Strategy which plays a key part in the Council's decision making, and the fact that Climate Change is a mandatory course for completion by staff, as per Minute 23 of the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2023, the MDSG has requested that Council's approval be given for Climate Change (e-learning) to be added as mandatory course for elected members with a completion requirement of every four years.

The Climate Change Reference Group has also requested that Climate Change should be designated as a mandatory course for elected Members.

3.0 The MDSG therefore, seeks formal Council approval for the recommended completion requirements for the mandatory courses detailed in 1.0 above and the addition of Climate change training to be designated as mandatory for elected members with a completion requirement of every four years per Councillor Term of Office.