

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007/08
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES		
Date: 10 February 2008	Ref: JAF/BN	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Corporate Services Committee of attendance at evening sessions arranged on a trial basis as part of the Members Training and Development Programme 2007/08.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Several elected members indicated it would be helpful if evening sessions could be introduced to the Members Training and Development Programme.
- 2.2 In November 2007 it was agreed to run four evening sessions as part of the Members Training and Development Programme on a trial basis and report findings back to the Corporate Services Committee

**3. Considerations**

3.1 Four evening sessions were added to the 2007/08 Members Training and Development and attendance was as follows:

Date		Attended 2.00pm	Attended 7.00 pm
21/08/2007	Audit of Best Value and Community Planning	21	n/a
11/09/2007	Best Value	20	n/a
13/11/2007	Local Government Finance	18	5
21/11/2007	Fuel Poverty and Health Awareness	6	3
27/11/2007	Care and Repair and Improvement Grants Service	11	2
22/01/2008	Council Initiatives on Anti-Social Behaviour	20	0

3.2 Only two elected members indicated they could attend the evening session scheduled to take place on 22 January. Following telephone calls to confirm attendance at the evening session one of the members indicated they could attend the afternoon session and arrangements were then made with the other elected member to meet separately with the presenter. On this basis the evening session scheduled for 22 January 2008 was cancelled.

3.3 While attendance levels for evening sessions held to date are insufficient to recommend continuation in terms of best value it is recognised there could be individual events in future considered suitable for evening sessions. In this respect members requests will receive consideration.

3.4 Due to the many demands made on elected members time it is not always possible for them to attend scheduled training sessions. With this in mind arrangements have been made to create an Elected Members area on ConnectNL – Council's Intranet. It is proposed that in future copies of the training material used in the Members Training and Development Programme Sessions will be published on ConnectNL and all elected members will be alerted of updates by an email.

#### 4. **Recommendations**

4.1 The Committee is asked to

(a) note the new arrangements for publication of training material from the Members Training and Development Programme and

(b) agree, given the attendance levels in the trial, evening sessions should cease meantime.

  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report should contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.*