

## **MEETING OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP**

**Wednesday, 6th February, 2013**

Members present: Alderman Rodgers; and Councillors Convery, Curran and Hussey.

In attendance: Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; Mrs. K. Russell, Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager; L. Rogan, Principal Human Resources Advisor; and Mr. G. Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Councillors Hendron, McCabe and Kyle.

### **Chairing of Meeting**

In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed that Councillor Convery would take the Chair.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 29th August were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Members' Generic Development Programme**

The Democratic Services Manager reminded Members that the Steering Group held responsibility for developing a framework to ensure that all Members were supported and equipped to carry out their roles effectively, especially within the context of the reform of local government. He reminded Members also that significant progress had been achieved, which had included the design and delivery of a revised Personal Development Planning (PDP) process, which, to date, forty Members had undertaken.

The Steering Group was reminded also that, at its previous meeting, it had received an overview of the generic development needs, which had been identified by Members, and which had been agreed as the basis of a Members' Generic Development Programme, which would be delivered in the early part of 2013. Furthermore, the Senior Democratic Services Officer pointed out that the Steering Group, at its meeting on 29th August, had agreed to the delivery of the Belfast Members' Academy, which was expected to commence in March, 2013, and which would complement the Members' Generic Development Programme. He explained that the Belfast Members' Academy was a bespoke programme designed to enable Elected Members to build the capacity of the City's current and future leaders and to equip them with the skills required to effectively deliver for the city and our communities. He further explained that officers would be exploring how the Belfast Members' Academy may be accredited.

Following discussion, the Steering Group agreed to the delivery of the Members' Generic Development Programme to run until the local government elections to the Shadow Council in 2014. It was also agreed that consideration should be given as to how the development programme could build Members' capacity in media skills, effective advocacy and understanding the regulations and legislation applicable to the Council's licensing and emerging planning function.

It was agreed also that, given the pressures on Members' time, there would not be any useful purpose served in re-running the PDP process in 2013. Accordingly, the Steering Group agreed that the existing PDPs for Members would run until the elections in 2014 and that any Member who wished to have a review of their PDP undertaken may do so upon request.

### **Councillor Kelly**

The Steering Group was advised that Cllr. Kelly had been successful in achieving an Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning and passed on its congratulate to her.

Chairman