

MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

29 July 2020

Present: Councillor P Kidney (Deputy Chair in the Chair)
Councillor D Clements, Councillor K Doolin, Mrs S Hoss, Councillor
M James, Mrs J James, Dr R Plummer and Councillor M Williams.

(Virtual Meeting: 12.30pm – 1.00pm)

1. Election of Chair

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mrs J James be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

[Mrs James then took the Chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.]

2. Election of Deputy Chair

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor P Kidney be elected Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

3. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Wilcox.

4. Disclosures

There were no disclosures of interest.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2020 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2020 be confirmed and authenticated.

6. Member Development Training Plan

The Administration and Democratic Services Manager congratulated the Chair and Deputy Chair on their appointments, and remarked that it had been a pleasure working with them over the previous year.

She went on to remind Members that the Authority had adopted the Member Development Strategy in July 2019 and that this included a commitment to offer a Personal Development Review (PDR) to all Members; a guidance document, which set out the process for undertaking such reviews, had been adopted by the Authority on 6 May 2020. Since that time a number of Members had completed their PDR and ten Personal Support Plans had been returned. A Training Needs



Analysis had been completed from which a Training Plan had been developed and these were both appended to the report.

It was noted that some training needs had been raised by only one Member, but were felt to be of interest or benefit to all, while some were more personal and would be taken up separately with the Members concerned. For the most part the methods of delivery were either workshop or e-learning based – many of the latter sourced from the Welsh Local Government Association’s website. Members would be asked to let the Administration and Democratic Services Manager know if they had completed any of these so that this could be recorded and used as evidence in the Advanced Charter submission.

The Chair noted that the Advanced Charter criteria required a majority of Members to have undertaken a review, and this had been achieved, however she suggested that the officer confidentially approach those who had not done so to encourage their participation. She advised that she and other Members were happy to facilitate such a review. Another Member asked that the Committee be provided with an update of the percentage of Members completing a PDR and submitting a Personal Support Plan at the next meeting. The Member also wished to record her appreciation for the way that the National Park Authority supported and developed its Members and believed that other organisations could learn from it.

Another question related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the timeline for submission of the Advanced Charter application. The officer replied that it had been intended to do this later in 2020, however in order to evidence that training had been completed in accordance with the plan, it was possible that this might have to be delayed. The Chair suggested that a conversation with the WLGA regarding the impact of the pandemic on Advanced Charter Assessments could prove helpful.

Turning to the Training Plan itself one Member asked whether the officer could identify any training needs that Members might not have considered themselves and the officer agreed to give this some thought. Members were happy to endorse the Plan, but also suggested that perhaps a training session on the work of National Parks Wales could be interesting, as could a discussion on how the Authority could influence the Welsh Government’s policy with regard to second homes which had been noted as an issue of concern at that morning’s National Park Authority meeting.

Thanking Members for their contributions, the officer advised that it was intended to report the Training Plan to the September meeting of the National Park Authority.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Member Support and Development Training Plan be adopted subject to incorporation of the above mentioned comments.

