

New Member 6 Month Catch up Overview & Resolutions

On 14th November 2023 a new Members catch up was held to provide newly elected Members with the opportunity to openly discuss their experience so far. The catch up focused on key areas such as the challenges faced, Members induction programme, the Buddy system and the use of Modern.gov and SharePoint. The table below demonstrates what actions Democratic Services have taken to support newly elected Members with their feedback and comments.

Members comments	What action has been taken?
<i>"Struggle to find telephone numbers for officers"</i>	The Member's Toolkit is regularly updated and published on the Members SharePoint area. It is also circulated regularly on the weekly & monthly diary sent out by Democratic Services
<i>"Local Plan – lack of input in this"</i>	Since the previous catch-up Local Plan briefings have been arranged throughout 2024.
<i>"There is a lot of information to learn about the Councils finances".</i>	Scrutiny recognised that there are gaps in learning and regular financial updates will be provided at Scrutiny Commission.
<i>"Training sessions weren't very accessible to start with, to encourage more attendees they need to be made more accessible and provide more options. People don't work 9-5 anymore. Cllrs have family pressures/young families to look after, including work pressures"</i>	Different methods have been trialled to make sessions more accessible to Members. Some recordings of training sessions have been uploaded onto the Members SharePoint site to enable playback at a more convenient time to suit individual circumstances. Work to ensure that training is accessible will be led by the Steering Group.
<i>"Full diary each week, difficult to find time for training sessions"</i>	Where possible, Democratic Services will limit the number of meetings/training sessions per week.
<i>"Planning Committee is challenging"</i>	Officers listened to Members & MDSG feedback and appointed the Planning Advisory Service to carry out training for all Members. The training received positive feedback from both Members & Officers. Planning Officers have also considered carrying out briefings after Committee meetings. Key Planning Documents have been uploaded onto the Members SharePoint site and consultation is due to be undertaken with Planning Officers to consider the next Planning Masterclasses.
<i>"Unsure of Council meeting Protocol & Motions to Council"</i>	Democratic Services are working on documents to share on the Members Site.
<i>"Would like more training/explanation re the role of the Monitoring Officer and Code of Conduct".</i>	Code of Conduct Training was completed on Thursday 15 th February 2024, the recording for this session can be found on the Members SharePoint site.