

12. MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT 2026-27

1. Purpose

To approve the Member Training and Development programme for 2026-27.

2. Context

2.1 Provision of training and development opportunities for Members assists in improving Members effectiveness and fulfilling their role.

2.2 The Governance Review Working Group reviewed Member training and development, which led to the Member Training and Development Framework being updated and agreed at the July 2024 Authority meeting (Minute reference 74/24).

3. Proposals

3.1 This report seeks approval for the Members training and development for 2026-27, as set out in Appendix 1. The new Member induction programme and compulsory training and development have been reviewed and remain the same as last year, as they are still fit for purpose.

3.2 The advisory training and development has been updated to incorporate training requested by Members and areas that Members will be involved with in the coming year. There are fewer advisory sessions than previous year, as we have made improvements to be more timely in our approach to training linked with areas Members are likely to be approving or making a decision on. These are now incorporated into Member Forum discussions on specific items, rather than them being part of a more static approach to training dates. Furthermore, we are now providing more ad hoc training in planning, to ensure we are learning from casework and changes in policy in a timely manner.

4. Recommendations

- 1. The 2026-27 programme of Member training and development events, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, is approved.**
- 2. To confirm that in person attendance at training and development events are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.**

5. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

Pursuant to section 27(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Authority must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members. Having an effective training programme, which includes compulsory induction training on the Code of Conduct and Members' legal responsibilities, will assist in demonstrating compliance with this duty. In addition, compulsory training for Members sitting on the Planning Committee and the Resources Committee will assist Members to make fully informed and defensible decisions that are robust in the event of legal challenge.

b. Financial

Member training and development funding is accommodated in the baseline budget. There are no additional resource implications arising out of the report. Members may claim travel and subsistence for attendance at training and development events and these costs are included in the annual budget.

- c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan
The Authority Plan includes Objective F (Governance) - to have best practice governance arrangements in place. Providing training and development opportunities for Members supports them to fulfil their roles effectively and contribute to good governance.
- d. Risk Management
The main risk is failure to enable Members to develop appropriate skills, knowledge and behaviours to improve effectiveness and fulfil their role. The Authority has provided development opportunities for Members for many years. The proposals in this report are part of continuous improvement in our approach but proportionate to the resources available.
- e. Net Zero
The proposals in this report do not contribute to net zero, however the training programme will include topics as necessary to ensure Members are up to date with net zero issues.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 –Programme of Training and Development 2025-26

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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