

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN, TRAINING PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES, PARTNERSHIP LIAISON AND ADVISORY GROUPS, AND INTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS AND PANELS

To: **General Purposes Committee**

Meeting Date: **22 December 2015**

From: **Democratic Services Manager &
Policy and Projects Manager**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **The General Purposes Committee is asked to consider its Agenda Plan and Training Plan, and agree appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels.**

Recommendation: **The General Purposes Committee is asked to:**

- a) review its Agenda Plan attached at Appendix 1;**
- b) review and agree its Training Plan attached at Appendix 2;**
- c) agree the appointment of a representative to the Needham's Foundation, Ely; and**
- d) agree that the current Cambridgeshire Future Transport Member Steering Group be reconfigured as the Total Transport Member Steering Group from 1 January 2016 (retaining the existing membership) and reporting to General Purposes Committee.**

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1.0 BACKGROUND

Agenda Plan

- 1.1 All Policy and Service Committees review their agenda plans at every meeting.

Training Plan

- 1.2 At the meeting of the Council held on 24 March 2015, it was agreed that each service committee should consider and approve its own training plan at every meeting. Members of the Constitution and Ethics Committee were concerned about the low take up at training events and were keen that Members should be accountable publicly for their attendance. It was also thought that taking the training plan to the committee meeting would facilitate the organisation of training at a time convenient for the majority of committee members.
- 1.3 For the General Purposes Committee the development of a training plan has been considered in light of the strategic functions of the Committee, as well as the service-based functions for Customer Service and Transformation and LGSS Managed.
- 1.4 At its last meeting, the Committee approved its training plan. Since that meeting, training on communications and consultation, which took place before the last meeting, has been added to the plan.

Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

- 1.5 The Committee reviewed its appointments to outside bodies, internal advisory groups and panels, and partnership liaison and advisory groups at its meeting on 28 July 2015. Since that meeting, the following changes have arisen:

Needham's Foundation, Ely

- 1.6 Mrs Hearne-Casapieri has resigned from the Needham's Foundation, Ely. The Needham's Foundation is a Charitable Trust, the purpose of which is to provide financial assistance for the advancement of education, to schools and individuals in the City of Ely. The Council has two representatives – Councillor Michael Rouse is the other representative. The Committee is therefore asked to appoint a representative to the Foundation.

Cambridgeshire Future Transport Member Steering Group

- 1.7 The current Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT) Member Steering Group (MSG) was set up by full Council at the end of 2014. Since then useful discussions and fact-finding have been undertaken, however, there has not been clarity about how the group is feeding in to the wider debate.
- 1.8 The Council submitted a funding bid to central government in February this year, and secured £460k to support a Total Transport pilot project. This will represent the next iteration of the original CFT project. The officer governance arrangements for Total Transport have been reviewed, and a new structure introduced during October 2015. This includes a Total

Transport Programme Board.

- 1.9 A meeting was arranged on 9 November 2015 with the chairs and vice-chairs of the Adults; Children and Young People; Economy and Environment and Health Committees, as well as the Chair of the CFT MSG and the Health Champion. The future governance options for the Total Transport project were considered.
- 1.10 Detailed proposals for a Total Transport pilot project in the Ely area are currently being prepared. In order to maintain or develop services whilst reducing financial commitments, there will be an impact on the delivery model of Adults and Children's services. Changes in provision for vulnerable client groups will also be relevant to the public health agenda.
- 1.11 The timescale for delivering the pilot project is tight. The central government funding period runs through to March 2017, by which time implementation and evaluation must have been completed. If up to four separate committees (Adults; Children and Young People; Economy and Environment; and Health) are required to consider and agree all issues arising from the project, significant delays in implementation may be encountered.
- 1.12 Whilst it is recognised that any proposed policy changes would need to be taken back to the relevant committee, the cross-service nature of the project makes it appropriate for General Purposes Committee to consider the general issues and recommendations put forward by a Total Transport MSG. This was the view of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting.
- 1.13 It is therefore proposed that the current CFT MSG should be reconfigured as the Total Transport Member Steering Group from 1 January 2016 (retaining the existing membership) and reporting to General Purposes Committee rather than Economy and Environment Policy and Service Committee.

2.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

2.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

There are no significant implications for this priority.

2.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

The General Purposes Committee (GPC) training plan will be developed to bring a greater Member understanding of the strategic resource issues facing the Council.

3.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

The GPC training plan, as drafted for this report, includes equality and diversity specifically as a topic for further Member development.

3.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
Council Agenda and Minutes – 24 March 2015 General Purposes Committee – 28 July 2015	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20146/council_meetings