Member Development Steering Group
Terms of Reference 2024-2028

Context

Bristol City Council's Member Development Programme is led by members, for members. Members are champions in their communities. They are negotiators, activists, and critical friends. Councillors understand the challenges and complex needs of being an elected member; and can provide guidance on what is required and how officers can support them.

Purpose

1. Facilitate a planned and strategic approach to member development, taking due consideration to the needs of all Members in the Committee System of Governance.
2. Ensure all Councillors are well equipped with the skills and knowledge to enable them to fulfil their various roles effectively and to the best of their ability.
3. Ensure that all Members have equal access to training and development opportunities.
4. Ensure that the learning and development of Members is recognised as crucial to the Council's reputation and to the success of the Corporate Strategy.
5. Ensure that new Members are fully supported during induction and beyond to allow them to carry out their duties effectively as quickly as possible.
6. Broaden knowledge around Council business, the Corporate strategy, and key policies/strategies.
7. Responsibility for reviewing and updating the Member Development Strategy every election cycle and regular review of the action plan.
8. Support a consistent approach to learning and development for Members
9. Facilitate regular assessment of training needs/records and the learning and development programme by Members.
10. Evaluate the effectiveness of the training programme and the Member Development strategy.
11. Reapply for South West Charter Plus Status accreditation in March 2025.

Membership

The MDSG includes representatives of all political parties. Regular meetings are held informally online.

Officer Support

The following officers will support the steering group:
- Louise DeCordova, Democratic Services Manager
- Taylor Meagher, Democratic Services Officer