WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Overview and Scrutiny
DATE	16 October 2012
REPORT TITLE	Draft Member Development Strategy
Report of	Democratic Services Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:
To consider a report which presents the draft Member Development Strategy for approval and outlines the Council's commitment to supporting Members in developing the necessary skills and knowledge to serve the community.

Financial implications:
There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
That the Committee **RECOMMEND** to Council that the draft Strategy (as presented at Appendix B) be adopted.

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1.   BACKGROUND

1.1   Member Development is an area of work which the Council needs to give an increased profile to and is increasingly being given added emphasis by central government. It can be defined as a '*system which provides a structured approach to identifying and meeting the Learning and Development needs of Members supporting them to develop the skills and knowledge to perform their role, serve the community and achieve the aims of the corporate plan'*.

1.2   In addition to the central government emphasis, the Council has recently implemented its 'Our Purpose' document, which makes strong reference to the importance of having '*skilled and involved Members.*'

1.3   To recognise these needs and champion the Member Development agenda, the Council has appointed a Joint West Devon and South Hams Steering Group. The agreed Terms of Reference for the Group are attached at Appendix A.

1.4 There are many perceived benefits to Member Development which include:-
- By fully developing and realising their potential, Members will be able to become even more involved in the corporate decision making of the Council and in the improved delivery of services;
- Providing Members with opportunities to expand upon their existing skills, interests and knowledge;
- Member Development enables succession planning and continuity of decision making to the benefit of both Members and the authority.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 At its first meeting on 12 July 2012, the Steering Group considered a draft Strategy to underpin the Council's commitment to the Member Development agenda.

2.2 The overall intention of adopting a Strategy is to outline approaches to identifying and meeting Learning and Development needs to ensure that they are meeting both individual and corporate needs.

2.3 At the meeting on 12 July 2012, the Group made a number of suggested amendments to the draft Strategy. These have since been incorporated and are outlined in a revised version (Appendix B refers).

2.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the draft Strategy and make any further comments and/or suggested amendments prior to recommending its adoption.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate priorities engaged:	All.
Statutory powers:	Local Government Act 2000.
Considerations of equality and human rights:	None arising from this report.
Biodiversity considerations:	None arising from this report.
Sustainability considerations:	None arising from this report.
Crime and disorder implications:	None arising from this report.
Background papers:	Agenda, reports and minutes of the Joint Member Development Steering Group meeting held on 12 July 2012.
Appendices attached:	A. Steering Group Terms of Reference B. Draft Member Development Strategy

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Input and Buy-in	For Member Development to be successful, Member input and buy-in to the concept is critical.	2	2	4	⇩	Adoption of a Strategy not only raises the profile of Member Development, but also outlines the corporate commitment.	Democratic Services Manager and Shared Member Development Officer

Direction of travel symbols ⇩ ⇧ ⇔