

## Training programme for councillors

### Background

1. Council has a responsibility towards the community it serves, and to its elected members, to ensure that elected members are provided with all the information they require to perform their role. This responsibility can be discharged by a mix of in house training, training delivered by external providers and individual learning on the part of councillors.
2. Elected members have highlighted the areas which they think require attention, and officers have reviewed the issues they believe also merit attention. The combined list suggests training is required in the following areas:
  - a. Planning - both neighbourhood planning and decision making on individual cases
  - b. Councillor conduct and communication skills
  - c. Who does what - duties and powers of local authorities
3. Neighbourhood planning is a very high priority because council will, in 2018, have to make significant decisions concerning the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. It is therefore proposed that a briefing on this single topic be delivered before January council, by an independent expert who is well acquainted with the Neighbourhood Plan process.
4. With regard to other training, members are invited to indicate whether they prefer training in short briefings before council meetings, or on separate evenings.

### Recommendation

1. That council indicates its preferences to their staff.