

Report on	Planning Programme for Elected Members
Reporting Officer	C Boomer, Planning Manager
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Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To agree two nominees to engage in the NILGA Local Planning Programme for Elected Members.
2.0	Background
2.1	NILGA recently commissioned work to undertake a scoping and analysis to implement a Regional Programme for Elected Member Development. One of the findings and subsequent recommendations was the need for accredited training on Planning. The NILGA Local Planning Programme for Elected Members has been developed and will be delivered as a pilot commencing 27 April 2018 and run until November 2018.
2.2	The accredited pilot is a particularly good opportunity for Members involved in the Planning Committee to receive an endorsed accreditation which would be beneficial for the future, beyond May 2019 (it is assumed that members participating would, at least, be seeking continuity as a local government representative after the next Local Election).
2.3	Details of the programme were previously circulated to Party Leaders and Planning Committee Members. The programme was referenced at the Planning Committee meeting held on 6 March 2018.
2.4	Following the Planning committee and at the Council meeting on 22 March 2018 Councillors Robinson (DUP), Councillor Glasgow (UUP), Councillor McPeake (SF) and Councillor Kearney (SDLP) were proposed, following which it was suggested that party leaders discuss the nominees and the decision be referred to the April Planning Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Design</u> The delivery of this programme will be interactive, allowing councillors to learn from case studies, ask questions and undertake role-play in workshops. Detail is outlined in appendix 1
3.2	<u>Modules</u> The course is made up of 8 modules

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Understanding plan making and the role of councillors; (ii) How Local Development planning is linked to community planning and regeneration initiatives; (iii) Understanding the Local Development Plan Process from draft stage to adoption; (iv) Understanding development management; the planning process and the role of Councillors; (v) Understanding planning conditions and planning agreements and the role of Planning Committee; (vi) Understanding the statutory appeal system and best practice; (vii) The statutory enforcement process and the role of the Planning Committee and other Councillors; (viii) Maladministration charges to the Ombudsmen and the judicial review of planning decisions; (ix) Optional study trip to Council in Scotland (Costs for this must be met by Council and would thus be deducted from nominees Conference & Training budget) <p>3.3 <u>Evaluation</u></p> <p>The impact and success of the training will be monitored at individual level through returned course evaluation forms and through improved understanding demonstrated in workshops. Councillors who successfully complete the entire course to a satisfactory standard will be credited by an endorsed award.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Costs</u></p> <p>Costs for the pilot programme be met by NILGA and the Local Government Training Group (LGTG) with the exception of travel. Note that the study trip to Scotland is optional.</p> <p>3.5 <u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Members seeking nomination are required to attend all of the modules across the nine months of the programme.</p>
4.0	<u>Other Considerations</u>
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: NILGA and Local Government Training Group (LGTG) will cover all costs with the exception of travel</p> <p>Human: not applicable</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Not applicable</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>Contribute towards skills base and decision making at planning committee.</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) two Elected Members be nominated to engage in the NILGA Local Planning Programme; (ii) other interested nominees be forwarded to NILGA to be included on the reserve list for the programme.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A - NILGA Local Planning Programme for Elected Members