

**East Midlands Councils
Councillor Development Network hosted by Rushcliffe Borough Council
1 December 2015 10am – 12 noon**

Attendees:

NAME	AUTHORITY
David Dalby	Ashfield DC
Sue Kimber	Newark and Sherwood DC
Christopher Tyler	South Derbyshire
James McLaughlin	East Northants DC
Viv Nightingale	Rushcliffe BC
Angelika Kaufhold	Erewash BC
Angela Goodman	Rushcliffe BC
Paul Davies	Nottinghamshire CC
Cllr Debbie Mason	Rushcliffe BC
Lisa Butterfill	EMC
Sarah Evans	Melton BC
Cllr Pru Chandler	Melton BC
Donna Cairns	North East Derbyshire DC
Sue Rodden	Broxtowe BC

	Agenda Item	Information/Actions
1	Welcome	The meeting was kindly hosted by Rushcliffe Borough Council. Cllr Debbie Mason chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2	Previous Notes Matters arising	Notes agreed, no matters arising
3	Leadership Academy	<p>Cllr Neil Clarke MBE, Leader of Rushcliffe BC, kindly gave a presentation of the offer and benefits of the LGA's Leadership Academy. Cllr Clarke is also the Chairman of the District Councils Network and an LGA Regional Peer hosting sessions at the Leadership Academy. Key points from the presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academy is ILM Recognised. • Always delivered by outside facilitators in conjunction with peers - fast paced and lots of interaction. • Approx 20 on each cohort working in groups and focusing on personal challenges. Good opportunity for networking. Constant sharing of views and information and exploring how others work. • The Council benefits from their Councillors learning and bringing back information • There are also Leadership Essentials which are themed events, masterclasses and workshops <p>The full presentation is attached to the notes and more information on the leadership academy can be found by clicking the following link: http://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-development</p>
3	Sharing of current activity/ priorities	<p>South Derbyshire</p> <p>This year undertook lots more training and experienced councillors gave feedback they enjoyed it and were asking for more which is good. We have 36 members and we are using iPad but do still get some councillors asking for paper copies.</p> <p>Erewash</p> <p>New councillors undertook the induction programme. The next phase is moving to electronic agendas. Will be getting surface pro. Already have modern gov and have just moved to restrictive app.</p> <p>Rushcliffe</p> <p>Completed quite a successful induction programme which is now being evaluated. We aimed to find a balance between overloading councillors and giving them the information they would need. Feedback so far has been very good - with some sessions better attended than others. Focus on 1st two years and ensure we keep up with the present climate in local government. Now doing on-line self assessments for returning councillors to understand their needs and 1:1's for new councillors (facilitated by EMC). This information will feed into the next phase of the development programme. Also doing a lot of work on going paperless. Moving to new but smaller accommodation next year.</p>

Newark and Sherwood DC

Undertaken a tailored induction which included Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity and Information Governance. The aim is to go paperless by 2017 and the LA has given them an allowance. Produced an extranet for member training but there have been some access issues due to councillors having different devices.

Melton BC

It has been a little disappointing that some new councillors have not taken up the training opportunities. Had to work hard to get councillors to come to the statutory training. We are following up on equalities and safe guarding on e-learning modules which is going well. Some of the external training has received poor feedback. The induction training programme has now finished and have surveyed councillors to get their views - 25% return rate at the moment. We will be starting individual reviews soon.

Broxtowe

Finished essentials Induction training at the end of July and from September onwards have done sessions such as social media. 45 minutes briefings before council meetings have been well attended. 1 session led by members on making an impact in your community. Good take up from new members who are enthusiastic. On Monday we're launching Broxtowe learning zone for members - where we have developed 6 on-line learning courses for members. Currently exploring January to March programme 2016.

Nottinghamshire CC

Midway between elections and member development is low key. Development topic tends to be based around the issue of the day. Elections in 18 months' time so will be planning for that. We can use committee meetings to combine learning.

Ashfield

Just about finished the induction programme. We have rolled out iPad at the same time 18/35 which have been bought for councillors through savings of going paperless. Safeguarding is now a compulsory session. About to do 1:1's with all councillors and future training will flow from this. Leader is on LGA Leadership Academy. Just about to appoint our IRP and will be tasked with coming up with a two tier scheme for member training - based on role descriptions and learning identified which we plan to bring in May 2016. We've just purchased modern.gov and rolling it out soon and getting the app.

North East Derbyshire

Have undertaken a training needs survey to understand needs. We offer sessions at different times and learning materials are available on the extranet as well as councillors being provided with links for on-line learning. Reviewing our strategy and role profiles to make sure the links to corporate priorities are clear and aligned and can be reviewed.

East Northants

We have evaluated our induction programme and the feedback is good. We had 10 new members who are enthusiastic and who have greater aspirations around learning and who have attended most sessions. The evaluation is also looking at future needs. Feedback appears to be that learning and development should be informal, e.g. exploring the devolution agenda via briefings/papers. We issue papers for all our committees and now members pushing officers to go electronic - roll out back end of 2016.

4.	<p>“Be a Councillor” funded opportunity</p>	<p>Lisa discussed the proposal from the LGA about supporting the Be a Councillor campaign in authorities which had to be undertaken by March 2016.</p> <p>Besides the use of the materials already provided by the LGA. the network suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would it be better to use the county councils as pilots that then the districts could then piggy back on that? • Short film developed and also made available to political parties (not just councillors) Filmed in east midlands with east midlands councillors. • A “Be a Councillor” app • LGA Press and Communications support - would want coverage at the time - radio adverts, Notts TV, local campaign, Facebook campaign when people logged onto Broxtowe Facebook page for example • Ensure the documentation doesn’t become out of date. <p>Lisa will feedback at the next meeting the progress achieved.</p>
5.	<p>Focus and dates of the next meetings</p>	<p>Future topics could include;</p> <p>Feedback from Be A Councillor campaign</p> <p>Innovations in providing training - making it interesting and different. This could involve sharing our learning and/or hearing from a speaker on this topic.</p> <p>New Date: Wednesday 6th July 2016 10am - Midday - Melton Borough Council, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1GH</p>
8.	<p>Close</p>	<p>Thank you to Rushcliffe BC for hosting the network</p>