

# Members' support services

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Democratic Services Team

# Members' support services

- Allowances
- Members support team in DSU
- Computer equipment and support
- Members training programme

# Members' allowances

- Set by independent panel annually
- Basic allowance for all councillors
- Responsibility allowances
- Travelling and subsistence
- Child or dependent care allowance

# Members' support team

- Two officers in DSU
- Support role - first point of contact
- Administer the training programme
- Maintain the councillors' database
- Dispatch agendas, papers, stationary, etc.

# IT Support

- All members will receive a laptop and printer
- IT Members' Support Officer
- Concentrate on new members and those with most support needs first
- Bring all members up to a base standard

# Members' training programme

- Induction programme
- Core programme for all members
- Specialist training for key roles
- Leadership training for aspiring members
- Ongoing development

# Key features of the new programme

- 4 modules:
  - **The effective councillor**
  - **Community leadership**
  - **Inside the council**
  - **Communications & information**
- Short easy to read home study materials
- Materials home grown for SDC

# A new way to learn

- Modules delivered at a pace that suits you
- Members will reassess their skills after each section of the programme
- Members' support officers will track progress and update each member's learning log
- Additional training will be arranged where required.



# Future Plans

- Council has signed up to the SW Lift programme
- £5,000 grant to assist us improve members development and training
- Aiming for accreditation
- Council assessed in the Autumn
- Feedback from the SWRA very positive