



29 May 2007

## **Member Development Gateway Programme**

Dear Leader of the Council

You may be aware that NWIN is launching a new Member Development Gateway that aims to bring together in one place support for elected member development. The Gateway is being developed by North West Employers, IDeA and the Centre for Local Governance (CfLG) and will signpost all the opportunities and knowledge available to authorities.

The Gateway also provides subsidised funding for specific development opportunities. In this first year there will be subsidy available for places on the IDeA Leadership Academy programme and individual peer mentoring support.

The Gateway Steering group, which is made up of elected members from across the region, met on 22 May 2007 and determined a way forward in respect of the allocation of places to the subsidised programmes. These are as outlined below.

### **Leadership Academy**

The IDeA Leadership Programme is designed for members in leadership positions, which includes: leaders of councils; leaders of political groups; executive and scrutiny committee members; portfolio holders; scrutiny chairs; and opposition spokespeople. The full cost of the Leadership Academy programme which consists of three two-day residential modules, and an optional fourth is £1400.

The Gateway is providing 50% subsidy for a total of 30 participants from the North West to attend Leadership Academy programmes. In addition there is a 50% funding subsidy for 10 delegates on a fastrack programme (for councillors under the age of 30) and similar funding for 10 delegates on a Black, Asian and ethnic minority programme.

Currently, one IDeA programme is scheduled to take place in the North West, in Manchester. This is a week-end programme, from September to November 2007. There will be flexibility to meet the wishes of members as some may prefer to attend a programme during the week.

There are a total of 50 subsidised places on the Leadership Academy for the 46 local authorities within the region. In broad terms this is one place per authority. One place is being allocated to each local authority in the first instance but where authorities do not wish to take up a place then other Councils requesting more than one delegate will be offered more than one

place. We will look to deliver an even spread across the sub-regions and types of authority.

I have attached further information on the Leadership Academy and details of the programme dates, which I hope will assist you to consider who you may want to put forward to take up your authority's place.

### **National mentoring programme**

The Gateway programme provides 100% funding for 40 individual members to receive four mentoring sessions each. The national mentoring programme provides a structured approach to mentoring aimed at supporting new members, newly appointed members (for example, to leading roles). Mentoring is particularly helpful for members facing change and new challenges.

The Steering Group has determined that any individual councillor may apply for the subsidised mentoring support. For administrative purposes the Council would need to initially meet the cost of the peer mentor (via the national Peer Clearing House) but 100% of the peer mentor costs can be claimed back by the Council from the Gateway through North West Employers.

Mentoring opportunities are being notified directly to councillors via email and it would also be helpful if you could make the attached flyer available to your members.

The Gateway provides a unique platform for signposting members to development opportunities and resources and your support in bringing these specific programmes to the attention of your councillors is gratefully appreciated.

If you would like any further information please contact me on the number below or reply to the new email address for Member Development gateway which is [membergateway@nweo.org.uk](mailto:membergateway@nweo.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Pam Booth, IDeA

On behalf of the North West Member Gateway

Telephone 07766 252 847

Email: [membergateway@nweo.org.uk](mailto:membergateway@nweo.org.uk)