



Bedfordshire Police Authority

LEAD MEMBERS SCHEME

The Lead Members Scheme enables the Police Authority to make good use of resources by requiring individual Members to give particular attention and develop an in depth knowledge of a specific portfolio linked to a strategic priority. This focused area of work contributes towards the Member Development Plan agreed during the Annual Performance Development Review with the Chair and assists with succession planning within the Authority. To gain maximum benefit Lead Members will need to be a member of the committee that relates to their area of responsibility. This will strengthen the ability of committees to effectively challenge and scrutinise from a position of knowledge, understanding and influence. It will also enable Committees to support improvement drives and value for money proposals brought by the Force.

ROLE PROFILE

Role:

- To undertake a leadership role in the scrutiny and understanding of a particular subject area or theme. Lead Members will have a role in informing the challenge and scrutiny role undertaken by Committees.
- Lead Members will support Committees and Committee Chairs in delivering committee work plans.
- To identify and report any value for money, risk, confidence or other strategic issues to the relevant Committee for further scrutiny.
- To understand performance issues within the lead subject area, and where appropriate report back through the committee structure.
- To ensure that the views of local people are reflected through community engagement or the findings from Authority consultation exercises.
- To maintain the critical friend relationship between the Authority and Force throughout Lead Member activities – seeking assurances where required and celebrating and communicating success.
- To identify and communicate lessons learnt with relevant stakeholders.
- To participate openly, transparently and constructively in the good governance of both the authority and service as a whole.

Responsibilities:

As it relates to their particular lead subject area:

- To continuously feed into their knowledge and experience of that lead subject area. This involves attendance at relevant training events, conferences and seminars.
- To record all significant strategic issues and risks for that lead subject area, reporting such updates to the relevant Police Authority Committee(s).
- To maintain a good working knowledge of Bedfordshire Police policies and practices in that lead area topic, and to establish good working relationships with relevant officers.
- To undertake specific 'task and finish' activities as identified by Committee(s) and report back to the relevant Committee(s).
- To seek reassurance on behalf of Committee(s) by reality checking that practices/processes are delivering for the communities of Bedfordshire.
- To participate actively in any outside body or forum on which the member is appointed to represent the authority in relation to that lead area topic.