

SUMMARY OF TRAINING NEEDS IDENTIFIED AT JUNE 2011 OPEN FORUM BY GREENSPACE SOUTH WEST MEMBERS

An email was circulated prior to the meeting asking people to identify current priorities for training. There were then 4 breakout groups discussing training needs together during the meeting.

The main skills gaps emerging were:

- 1 the skills to understand the priorities of important people/organisations and to be able to communicate the value of greenspace effectively to them and
- 2 Funding, making efficient use of resources and volunteers

Subjects from pre meeting email	Number of people	Subjects identified in breakout session at meeting	Number of groups (SEE BELOW)
Understanding the new local government agenda and what it means for Parks services.	12	Interpreting white papers	1
Evidencing how green space can deliver on the big agendas	13	Local issues and policy, business planning	2
Influencing and advocacy	7	Public speaking, working with councillors, communication, assertiveness, influencing, networking, partnerships, relationships	3
Marketing and publicity	7	PR marketing internal and external	1
Leadership skills	4	Assertiveness, influencing	2
Making the most of Community groups and volunteers	10	Working with communities	1
Good Customer Service	4	Business planning	1
Funding and finances, Getting better value for money	10	Funding, bids, entrepreneurial	3
Working with Planners and Developers	7	strategies	1
Transferring skills	0		1
Making use of the web eg social networking	9	IT	1

Summary of group work Skills Needs Analysis

Members at the meeting on 13 June divided into 4 groups to discuss training needs in their organisations. The outcomes were as follows:

Group A

- Dealing with councillors
- Confidence in public speaking
- Advocacy
- Negotiation
- Funding/fundraising
- Working with communities
- Green/Open Space strategies
- Interpreting the White Paper & national policy
- Relationship management
- Understanding local issues and policy
- Grant applications
- Time management

Group B

- Making the most of IT systems and social networking
- Communication
- Marketing
- PR – internal and external
- Advocacy
- Time management
- Assertiveness

Group C

- IT (websites)
- Networking & partnership work
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Business planning
- Communication
- Influencing and advocacy
- Assertiveness

Group D

- Transferring skills from experienced staff to new entrants
- Mentoring and coaching
- Funding & bid development

