



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE - 15TH DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: WLGA CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement to the attached draft Member Support and Development Strategy 2015/18 (attached at appendix 1) and confirm commitment to re-apply for Wales Charter for Member Support and Development prior to its presentation to Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report seeks endorsement to continue operating member support and development activities in accordance with the WLGA's Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. The Charter is a public statement and quality standard benchmark for delivering effective member support and development.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Member support and development opportunities assist members to discharge their community leader, decision-making and scrutiny roles effectively.

4. WALES CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 On 21st February 2006, full Council agreed that a work programme should be developed to implement the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. The Charter aims to develop, recognise and share good practice in the support and development of elected Members.
- 4.2 The Charter was developed by the WLGA, in partnership with Members and officers from across Wales. Each section of the Charter contains specific actions to be undertaken. It is divided into the following 4 sections:
- Members roles and responsibilities
 - Member development
 - Member support
 - Member facilities
- 4.3 The Council was the first in Wales to be awarded the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development in 2007. The Council's member development activities were subsequently reassessed by a Peer Review Team led by the WLGA in 2011 and Charter status was reconfirmed. The next review will be include a self assessment and audit of documentary

evidence by the WLGA. Following the results of this desktop assessment additional evidence may be requested or alternatively, the Charter will be awarded. Members may wish to note that the Welsh Government has announced its grant funding which supports the WLGA member development initiatives, including Charter, will not be renewed for 2015/16. Therefore, the future of the WLGA's Member support staff is uncertain beyond the end of this financial year.

- 4.4 The Council's Member Development Strategy underpins the Council's approach to Member Support and Development. This has been reviewed to coincide with the re-assessment of Charter status and is attached at appendix 1. A full list of the Charter requirements is attached at appendix 2.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Charter will assist members in their Councillor role and training and development opportunities are open equally to all councillors.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a specific budget allocated to fund Member development activities. For 2014/15 a total of £14,000 was available for conferences and training courses.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in the recommendation of this report

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to recommend that Council re-affirm their commitment to the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development and endorse the Members' Development Strategy 2015/18 attached at appendix 1.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To provide an agreed recognised standard of member support and development.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Members' Development Strategy 2015/18
Appendix 2 The Wales Charter for Member Support and Development