



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23RD NOVEMBER 2017

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 the views and endorsement of the Democratic Services Committee on the proposed commitment to renew the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development prior to seeking the approval of Council to reapply for charter status.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report seeks Member 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. It contributes to all seven Wellbeing Goals within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 as it seeks to support and develop those roles where Councillors will be called upon to make recommendations and decisions that will impact on future generations.

- *A prosperous Wales*
- *A resilient Wales*
- *A healthier Wales*
- *A more equal Wales*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
- *A globally responsible Wales*

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council was the first in Wales to be awarded the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development in 2007 which has since been successfully renewed twice in 2011 and 2014. 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
- Members development
- Member support
- Member facilities

4.3 The Charter renewal application process requires the compilation of a portfolio of evidence against each of the four sections and a self-assessment made against an establish criteria. The self-assessment establishes the Charter requirement, description of the Authority approach and action which is then cross referenced to the supporting evidence. A full list of the Charter requirements is attached at Appendix 1.

4.4 Following the result of this submission and assessment, additional evidence may be requested from the WLGA or alternatively, the Charter will be awarded.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 The renewal of the Wales Member Charter for Member for Support and Development contributes to the Wellbeing Goals as set out in the 'Links to Strategy' above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principal in the Act in that by providing a benchmark for Member Support and Development it better prepares Councillors for their role as decision makers and scrutineers. A role that requires them to make decisions and recommendations that will impact the long and short terms needs of Caerphilly County Borough residents; enable them to confidently scrutinise, challenge and hold to account, better assess appropriate interventions and provide them with the skills required to work collaboratively and nurture their understanding of the importance of community involvement.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An EqIA is not needed because the issues covered have previously been considered by the Council.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There is a specific budget allocated to fund Member development activities.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporate into the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are asked to recommend that Council re-affirm their commitment to the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To provide an agreed recognised standard of Member support and development.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

12.2 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 The Wales Charter for Member Support and Development