



## **COUNCIL – 23RD JANUARY 2018**

**SUBJECT: WLGA CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

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- 1.1 The report was considered by the Democratic Services Committee on the 23rd November 2017.
- 1.2 Having considered the report and the Charter requirements as detailed within the submission pro-form in Appendix 1 of the report the Democratic Services Committee unanimously recommended that Council approve the proposal that this Council re-affirms its commitment to the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development.
- 1.3 Members are invited to consider the report and the above recommendation.

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Appendix: Democratic Services Committee Report – 23rd November 2017



## 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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Councillor Barbara Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance Performance and Governance  
Councillor Colin Mann, Chair of Democratic Services Committee

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

**A Self Assessment  
Pro-forma for the Standard Level  
Charter**

A. Member Roles and Responsibilities	Charter Requirement	Charter Expansion and Clarification	Description of authority approach and actions	References to supporting evidence enclosed
<p><b>1. Members are supported with role descriptions.</b></p>	<p>Role descriptions are adopted for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader</li> <li>• Deputy Leader</li> <li>• Cabinet Members</li> <li>• Scrutiny Members</li> <li>• Scrutiny Chairs</li> <li>• Scrutiny Vice Chairs</li> <li>• Scrutiny Co-optees</li> <li>• Chairs of statutory committees</li> <li>• Chair of the Audit Committee</li> <li>• Members of Audit Committee</li> <li>• Chair of Democratic Services</li> <li>• Member of Democratic Services</li> <li>• Ward Member, including community leadership and case work</li> </ul>	<p><b>What does adopted mean?</b></p> <p>Role descriptions exist and have been formally adopted for all the roles listed.</p> <p>There is no need at this level for members to evidence that they perform the roles outlined in the descriptions but they should understand what their role is and what is expected of them. What can be defined as a role description?</p> <p>See</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the WLGA model role descriptions for Welsh Authorities and</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of Standards committee</li> <li>• Member of Standards Committee</li> <li>• Leader of the Opposition</li> <li>• Member Champion</li> </ul> <p>Guidance is provided to members on their role on outside bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the WLGA document <i>The Role of Members in Collaboration</i> and</li> <li>▪ The Model Role description for a Scrutiny Co optee Appendix A local Government (Wales) Measure 2011</li> </ul> <p><b>Outside Bodies</b> Where members are responsible for formally representing the authority or making decisions that could impact on the authority or have legal obligations as - for example trustees of an organisation, they should be provided with a role description. In all instances members should be provided with guidance on their role on the outside body. Officers</p>		
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		should secure (where available) terms of reference from outside bodies.		
<b>2. Members are supported in undertaking their duties according to high standards of conduct.</b>	All members are provided with training and development in the detail of the local code of conduct, taking into account any changes in the model or local codes as they emerge.	<b>What can be interpreted as training and development?</b> Any activities which help members understand what the code is and how they need to work within it. This could include written guidance, induction sessions, workshops, Q&A sessions.		
<b>3. Members are supported in understanding their roles and responsibilities as set out in the Constitution.</b>	All members have received training on and understand the contents of the constitution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the roles, responsibilities and limits to the roles of committees</li> <li>• the role of individual members and officers</li> <li>• Member/officer</li> </ul>	Training has been made available to all members and take up of this has been high.  The constitution sets out the roles and responsibilities of every committee and broadly the role of the key players at each committee, for example chairs, support officers and regular/key		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protocols</li> <li>meeting practice</li> <li>standing orders</li> <li>rules of debate</li> </ul>	<p>participants.</p> <p>Role descriptions may be in the constitution or as a separate document but should be formally adopted and valued.</p>		
<b>B. Member Development</b>				
<b>B1. A member learning and development strategy has been adopted.</b>	<p>A local member development strategy is in place. The strategy sets out the approach that the authority and the Democratic Services Committee takes to member development. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a commitment to and methodology for undertaking development needs analyses through a PDR scheme or TNA for those members not requesting a PDR, which identifies the local and national, collective</li> </ul>			

	<p>and individual development needs of all members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a commitment to and methodology for developing members according to the needs of the organisation.</li><li>• a commitment to and methodology for creating personal development <u>plans</u> for all members.</li><li>• a methodology for responding to the development needs of members identified in their personal support and development reviews or TNAs.</li></ul>			
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**B2. Arrangements are in place for all members to be offered a PDR.**

Personal support and development reviews which are:

- based on role descriptions
- contribute to personal development plans
- are conducted by senior members or other deemed suitably qualified as set out in the Measure guidance
- are made available for all members and must be undertaken by members in a receipt of a senior/civic salary.

**Note**, although the measure does not require the leader to undertake a review, the Charter does. The Charter requires that all members in receipt of a senior salary undertake this.

**What is a PDR?**

An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified person their own requirements for training and development.

This **should** include some examination of current duties as set out in the role descriptions listed above and **may** include some self or supported reflection on current performance as a starting point. **The outcomes of the discussion should feed into a personal development plan held by the member with the required development activities and also be recorded by the authority so that development activities can be**

	<p>The Measure is voluntary but for all members.</p>	<p><b>arranged to support every members needs.</b></p> <p>The WLGA document 'Guidance for Authorities Planning to Implement Personal Development Reviews for Member' provides guidance in this area.</p> <p><u>Anyone</u> conducting reviews should have received training in their purpose and methodology.</p>		
<p><b>B3. A development programme for councillors is in place</b></p>	<p>An annual development programme informed by the member development</p>	<p>There is an annual programme of events and learning opportunities for</p>		

<p><b>with a mechanism for its annual review.</b></p> <p><b>All councillors are made aware of, guided to and are able to access the development activities equally.</b></p>	<p>strategy is in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual development programme is planned and publicised in advance.</li> <li>• Members are made aware of development opportunities provided in response to their needs.</li> </ul> <p>The timings and settings of activities are varied to enable equal access by all, including those members who are working, are carers or have child care responsibilities.</p>	<p>members both collectively and individually. This programme is informed by the organisational priorities set out in the strategy and in any requirements identified in the personal development plans which emerge from PDRs and TNAs. The programme should be developed by relevant officers and members for example the DSC/MDWG/ MD Champion, DS/HR officers and directors/service heads. The programme includes 'specialist' areas of development reflecting the needs of members in developing skills and understanding in both corporate governance and thematic or service areas.</p> <p>The programme is provided to members</p>		
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		<p>giving sufficient notice for attendance.</p> <p>Members are notified of specific events in which they have expressed an interest.</p> <p>The programme is designed to offer choice or variety of opportunities to attend.</p>		
<p><b>B4. Prospective candidates, candidates and new members are informed of their role and responsibilities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Council uses the national guidance and support materials available for candidates and prospective candidates.</li> <li>▪ All new or returning members are provided with a programme of induction.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is the national Guidance?</b></p> <p>This refers to the materials provided by the Association and others, to people in the community (not just those who have decided to stand) to encourage them to stand for office and to those who have already declared their intention to stand. These will be different for each election and at different times in the political calendar. The</p>		

		<p>Association will have an overview of what is available.</p> <p><b>What constitutes an induction programme?</b>  This will vary between authorities but should at the base level be any activity that introduces new members to their roles both within and outside the council and the work of the authority generally.</p> <p>Use is made of the national induction materials provided by the WLGA.</p>		
<p><b>B5. Development activities are relevant and of high quality.</b></p>	<p>Learning activities are provided in appropriate styles and settings based on the learning needs and styles of individuals and committees. The authority has a systematic and effective approach to</p>	<p><b>What are appropriate styles and settings?</b>  A mix of for example formal/informal group/individual, interactive/passive working environment/away day</p>		

	<p>commissioning, developing, providing and evaluating its training and development activities. This could include internal, external and collaborative arrangements.</p>	<p>The authority would need to demonstrate an effective selection process for commissioning training. This might include working with the WLGA and should include working collaboratively where appropriate with other authorities to share intelligence or undertake joint procurement.</p> <p>Internal training, (rather than briefing) should be designed and provided with the support of training/OD professionals in addition to member support or policy/service officers.</p>		
<p><b>B6. There is a clear responsibility for leading the programme, driving the strategy and monitoring the outcomes.</b></p>	<p>The Authority has clearly defined the arrangements for developing, implementing and monitoring its strategy for member support and development. Individual</p>	<p>This role should be undertaken by the Democratic Services Committee and its chair or other appropriate for a such as a member support and development</p>		



	<p>members and officers have clear roles in leading and championing this area. The needs of all political groups and independent members are taken into account regardless of political affiliation.</p>	<p>working group. Individual member(s) and officer(s) have clear overall responsibility for developing, implementing and monitoring the strategy and progress of the programme.</p>		
<p><b>B7. Resources are identified and provided for member development.</b></p>	<p>Dedicated resources are identified and provided for member development activities.</p> <p>The authority provides the “reasonable level” of development required by the Measure.</p>	<p><b>How dedicated is dedicated?</b></p> <p>Resources are specifically put aside and used for member development. The development activity can be very widely interpreted but should not be the usual business of the council. It could include traditional briefing, workshops or seminars handbooks, e. learning, induction activities. Resources should also include staff time, shared where possible between authorities.</p>		

<p><b>B8. Members are offered the opportunity to be mentored by member peers.</b></p>	<p>The authority is exploring the needs of members to be mentored. Any member who has requested a mentor is provided with one. Mentors are trained in mentoring skills.</p>	<p>The authority is speaking to members about the concept and benefits of mentoring to gauge interest. Mentoring might include member to member or working with member or officer "buddies" The authority should be exploring the need to provide Leadership mentoring for the Leader and Cabinet if requested.</p>		
<p><b>C. Member Support</b></p>				
<p><b>C1. Officer support is provided for member development, support and scrutiny.</b></p>	<p>Every member committee, panel, forum etc. has officer support provided. Members are also supported in their case work.  Overview and scrutiny committees have dedicated support from officers who can provide impartial research, support and</p>	<p>Officer support should be provided for every council meeting and committee.  Systems should be in place to support members in non Party Political case and community work whether from member support or other service areas. Support for</p>		

	<p>advice.</p> <p>The nature of the support has been clearly articulated to members</p>	<p>collaborative governance arrangements such as joint committees and commissioning boards should also be evidenced.</p> <p>There needs to be a resource (dedicated or otherwise) in the authority who can provide members with advice in relation to the discharge of the authority's scrutiny function, and support for scrutiny members or committees by impartially researching information. This should be in direct response to the needs of members when they are undertaking their legitimate scrutiny role.</p>		
<p><b>C2. Arrangements made for the business of the Council are flexible and enable members to participate fully regardless of personal</b></p>	<p>A review of the arrangements for council business has taken place and as a result, meeting times, arrangements and venues reflect the needs of</p>	<p>Authorities should have undertaken a review in line with Measure guidance i.e at least once every term, preferably shortly after the new</p>		

<p><b>circumstances</b></p>	<p>members as closely as possible.</p> <p>Members have been involved in developing the approaches to remote attendance as set out in the standing orders as/when required by the Measure.</p>	<p>council is elected which at least measures whether daytime or evenings are preferred and if particular times cause problems for individual members. Individual committees should be able to define what is convenient for members of that committee. What should be demonstrated is an awareness of the restrictions placed on members by holding council meetings at certain times and some evidence of flexibility in meeting arrangements as a result.</p>		
<p><b>C3. Contact management and communication</b></p>	<p>Systems are in place to enable members to liaise with council officers regarding services provided both within and outside the authority. Community groups and individuals are</p>	<p>These systems should include agreed standards for response times, complaints procedures and processes to support community and casework. Members should be</p>		

	also assisted in contacting local members. Members are able to contact stakeholders.	provided with information regarding which officers to contact regarding complaints and casework relating to any service delivered by or on behalf of the council.		
<b>C4. Annual reports</b>	The authority makes arrangements for all members to be able to publish annual reports, according to the guidance in the measure.	Members are provided with support and guidance on using the authority's systems.		
<b>C5. Personal support for members</b>	Members are provided with access to guidance on their rights and benefits as members.	Members are provided with general advice on what might be described as 'employment' rights and benefits relating to their role as councillors. This includes member salaries, family absence, allowances, tax and benefits, pensions, indemnities, data protection and freedom of information.		
<b>D. Member Facilities</b>				

<p><b>D1. All members are provided with adequate access to ICT.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members are provided with the equipment, or connectivity required to undertake their role.</li> <li>▪ Basic training is provided in its use and help desk facilities are available.</li> <li>▪ Members are supported in remote working through the use of remote access codes and Skype etc.</li> <li>▪ Members are provided with support to enable them to remotely attend meetings according to the standards set out in the standing orders (when implemented</li> </ul>	<p>Members are provided with equipment for their individual use to undertake council business.</p> <p>They are shown how to use the equipment and packages.</p> <p>They are able to have assistance if they are experiencing problems with using the equipment or it is faulty.</p> <p>Members are advised on the use of mobile communications and digital and social media and have access to relevant social media sites, discussion for a and communities of practice such as is required to undertake their role.</p> <p>All council agendas and</p>		
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	<p>through the Measure).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are able to communicate with the council and the public electronically.</li> </ul>	<p>meeting papers are provided electronically.</p>		
<p><b>D2. Information resources are provided</b></p>	<p>A central collection of information dedicated to member needs is provided as part of the information and research support available to members.</p>	<p>An up to date and regularly revised collection of information resources is available specifically for members.</p> <p>This contains agendas, minutes, training opportunities, links to web resources and access to performance data.</p> <p>Members are informed about the information that is available.</p>		
<p><b>D3. Facilities for members to work in the Council are available.</b></p>	<p>Member needs have been reviewed and where required the following are provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared areas for</li> </ul>	<p>The needs of members must have been assessed.</p> <p>Rooms must be available but not necessarily permanently dedicated.</p>		

	<p>example for each political group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Private rooms for meetings.</li><li>▪ Offices for senior office holders.</li></ul>			
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