

TO: EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – 13th MARCH 2007

SUBJECT: WEST MIDLANDS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

FROM: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the outcome of the recent review against the West Midlands Member Development Charter and propose the next steps in relation to member development.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The assessment against the West Midlands Member Development Charter Primary Level took place on Thursday 22nd February 2007. A large number of Councillors were involved in interviews on the day and this, coupled with the portfolio of evidence that was submitted and the work of the Member Development Group, led to the successful achievement of the Charter.
- 2.2 The achievement of the award was announced at the Council meeting on the 22nd February and will be formally presented at an awards ceremony to be organized by West Midlands Local Government Association.

3. NEXT STEPS IN MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The feedback report from the assessment is attached at Appendix one. It contains 20 recommendations from the assessment team some of which they acknowledge are already being actioned. The member development group have agreed to meet in April to discuss the recommendations and incorporate them into future proposals as appropriate.
- 3.2 The next immediate area of work for member development is the arrangement and publishing of the induction programme following the Elections and the introduction of development reviews. These will take priority over any other recommendations that may be included in the report.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the post of Learning and Development Officer will be filled in May or June and therefore there will be some extra capacity to support the development programme moving forward into the autumn.
- 3.4 The assessment has highlighted the very valuable input from the Member Development Group in bringing a member perspective to the whole process. It also identifies a significant continuing role for such a group. It is proposed therefore that the committee give consideration to the continuation of a cross party member development group after the elections.

4.0 POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The provision of training and development for Elected Members sits within the overall Council policy of being an Investor in People employer.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The Committee acknowledges the achievement of the Charter award and gives recognition to those who have contributed to this success.
- 5.2 The need to concentrate in the immediate future of the induction programme and the introduction of development reviews for members is agreed
- 5.3.1 It is proposed that a cross party group of members continues to meet after the elections to further the recommendations contained in the assessment report.

Karen Pearce
Acting Director Customer Information and Advice

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Employment Committee

September 21st 2004; 16th March 2005; 26th June 2006; 24th January 2007

Areas in District Affected: None **Key Decision:** No

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