

By: Gary Cooke, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services

Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 9 July 2013

Subject: Member Development

Summary: This report informs the Committee of the mid term review by the South East Employers Organisation since the County Council was awarded the Member Development Charter Plus. It also reports on the induction programme to date, which has been delivered for Members since the election on 2 May 2013.

1. Introduction

The County Council was the first County Council in England to be awarded the Member Development Charter Plus for its commitment to Member Development in October 2011. This Charter is awarded for a three year period.

2. Member Development Charter Plus – Review

(1) The County Council has received notification from the South East Employers Organisation, the assessment and awarding body of the Member Development Charter Plus, that they wish to conduct a mid term review of the progress made by the County Council on Member development since being awarded Charter Plus status.

(2) This review will take place on Thursday 5 August 2013. The Democratic Services Manager (Members) and the Learning and Development Manager are preparing a report on the progress made by the County Council since being awarded the Charter Plus, which will be discussed with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services prior to submission to the South East Employers Organisation.

3. Member Development and Induction

(1) The Committee will be pleased to note that the feedback from both new and returning Members of the County Council on the induction programme developed by this Committee following the election of the new County Council has been very positive.

(2) The programme reflects the views of Members of the former County Council expressed in one to one discussions on their experience with regards

to induction and member development when they first joined the County Council.

(3) Members have been very engaged in the briefing and development opportunities made available to them in the first two months of this new Council and attendance at these events has been very good.

4. E Induction Programme and Member KNet Area

(1) Prior to the election, the Committee also developed an e-induction programme for Members covering the core issues which they need to be aware of to perform their role.

(2) This is available in the KNet Member area which is a valuable resource. The challenge is to encourage all Members to start using this area and it is hoped that all Members of this Committee would support and encourage its use.

5. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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Background Documents: None