

By: Gary Cooke, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services
Andrew Bowles, Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group
Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 25 April 2014

Subject: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER PLUS

Status: Unrestricted

Summary: The Committee is invited to endorse the re-commitment to the Member Development Charter Plus Standard.

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 4 September 2013 the Committee:
 - a. noted the outcome of the mid-term review against the Member Development Charter Plus Standard;
 - b. agreed to the re-establishment of the cross-party Member Development Steering Group; and
 - c. recommended the proposed Member Policy Statement to the County Council for approval.
2. The Member Development Charter Plus Standard once awarded is for three years, so the County Council will need to be reassessed against the Charter Plus Standard in September 2014.

Member Development Charter Plus – Next Steps

3. The Member Development Steering Group will now oversee the preparation of the self-assessment template against which the Council will be assessed and will share this informally with the assessment body, the South East Employers Organisation.
4. The Steering Group will also take into account the recommendations made by South East Employers following the mid-term review last August. To remind the Committee the outcomes of this review were as follows:

“I am pleased to confirm that the council continues to meet the standard of the Charter Plus and a full re-assessment will be required in September 2014 with a re-commitment due in April 2014.

Following the elections and the successful new member induction programme I would like to suggest the following actions:

- The Member Development Steering Group (MDSG) to schedule a series of meetings, agree terms of reference and determine its work programme
- The MDSG to identify the key development priorities to support members to achieve the Transformation programme and a development programme to be put together to respond accordingly
- New role profiles to be developed to reflect the changing role of the councillor
- Personal Development Plans to be offered to all Members with a target of 70% take up and completion
- The MDSG to consider the future approach to 360 degree feedback to support development.”

5. We have agreed with South East Employers to set aside Wednesday, 17 September 2014 for the Assessment Panel to reassess the County Council against the Member Development Charter Plus Standard.

6. Recommendation:

The Committee are asked to endorse the re-commitment of the County Council to the Member Development Charter Plus Standard.

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