

By: Gary Cooke, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services  
Andrew Bowles, Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group  
Eric Hotson, Chairman of the Member Working Group – Commissioning  
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To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 8 October 2014

Subject: Member Development and the Member Role

Status: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report informs the Committee of the successful re-assessment for the Member Development Charter Plus Standard. It also informs the Committee of the on-going work of the Member Working Group Commissioning which is considering the Member role.

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## **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 September 2011.

## **2. Member Development Charter Plus – Re-Assessment**

(1) On Wednesday 17 September 2014 an Assessment Team – Mark Palmer, Development Director, South East Employers, Councillor Gareth Barnard, Cabinet Member Children's Services, Bracknell Forest and Joanna Boaler, Head of Democratic Services, Essex County Council reassessed the County Council against the Member Development Charter Plus Standard.

(2) As the Leader of the Council reported to the County Council on Thursday 18 September the County Council was successful in its re-assessment and the Charter Plus Standard has been awarded to the County Council for a three year period.

(3) The report of the Assessment Team is attached as an Appendix to this report.

## **3. Next Steps**

The Member Development Steering Group will be meeting shortly to continue the work on the areas for improvement set out in the report of the Assessment Team.

## **4. Member Role**

(1) The Member Working Group – Commissioning has met on a number of occasions since the end of July. The Group will be submitting a report with its recommendations on the Member role in the commissioning cycle to the County Council on 23 October 2014.

(2) There is a clear link between the member role and a future member development programme building on the briefings delivered by Professor Tony Bovaird of INLOGOV to elected Members on moving towards a Strategic Commissioning Authority.

## **5. Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to comment and offer its advice to the Member Development Steering Group on :

- (a) the suggested areas for improvement set out in the report of the Assessment Team; and
- (b) the learning and development activities for inclusion in the Member development programme.

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