

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Members' Training and Development Panel
2.	Date:	17 th November 2010
3.	Title:	Member Development Charter
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive

5. Summary

To provide an up-date on progress towards satisfying the requirements for re-assessment necessary to achieve the Charter, as agreed by members at their meeting on 30th September 2010.

6. Recommendations

That Members note the proposed date for assessment relating to the achievement of the Charter.

7. Proposals and Details

In October 2005, Rotherham MBC signed up to working towards Charter status on Elected Member Development. That commitment was signed by both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and fully supported by this Panel. The Council achieved the Member Development Charter in 2006.

The commitment to go forward towards achievement of the Charter recognises the vital role of Elected Members in local governance and pledges to adapt good practice in member development by:-

1. Being fully committed to developing our Elected Members in order to achieve the Council's aims and objectives.
2. adopting a member-led strategic approach to Elected Member development
3. having a member learning and development plan in place that clearly identifies the difference development activities will make
4. seeing that learning and development is effective in building capacity
5. addressing wider development matters to promote work-life balance and citizenship

The process of assessment is about determining whether or not the Council is continuing to adopt good practice in terms of building Elected Member capacity.

A pre-assessment visit was made on 2nd November 2010 and the feedback received was very favourable. It was confirmed that we are ready to go forward for full assessment on 21st December 2010, subject to the following conditions being met:

- Completion of the commitment document – signed by the leader, chief executive and leaders of other 'recognised' political groups
- That the proposed review of the member development strategy has been considered by the Member Training and Development Panel and actions agreed – before the formal assessment date
- That the authority take steps to explore how the council's intranet can facilitate special member pages related to development
- That the authority produce a policy statement document relating to member development, and this is made easily available to members (via handbook etc)

8. Finance

The cost associated with going forward for the Charter is to be met by Local Government Yorkshire and Humber

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to achieve the Charter would result in a missed opportunity to accredit the excellent work that is carried out in Rotherham in support of Member Development.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Member Development programme provides an opportunity for Members to further develop their knowledge and understanding about a range of issues associated with the challenges confronting both the Council and themselves as community leaders.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Guidance notes for Local Authorities working towards achieving the Yorkshire and the Humber Charter on Elected Member Development.

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