



Report To: Full Council
Lead Officer: Legal and Democratic Services Manager

25 September 2014

Member Development Strategy 2014-17

Purpose

1. To provide Council with an opportunity to consider and approve the Member Development Strategy for 2014-17.

Recommendations

2. That the Member Development Strategy for 2014-17 be approved.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To ensure that the Council has a Member Development Strategy which is up-to-date and relevant to support the development needs of elected Members.

Background

4. The Council's previous Member Development Strategy covered the period 2011-14 and coincided with the commitment to achieve the East of England Councillor Development Charter.
5. Charter status was granted in January 2012 and the Council was successful in its reaccreditation following an 18 month review in June 2013, demonstrating that the standards set out in the Charter continued to be met.

Considerations

6. The 2014-17 Member Development Strategy seeks to build on the recommendations received as part of the original Councillor Development Charter assessment report and comments received as part of the 18 month reassessment, with its main objectives being to:
 - to provide Members with flexible and responsive training and development that is based on individual and organisational needs;
 - to ensure Members are in a position to function fully within their roles, working with officers and partners in order to achieve the vision and aims of the Council.
7. Main amendments made to the Strategy for 2014-17 include reference to:
 - the Council's enhanced commercial approach to service delivery and the need for Members to be developed and supported in this relatively new concept;

- increased partnership working with neighbouring and other local authorities to deliver joint development opportunities for Members through links such as the Cambridgeshire Member Development Network;
 - engagement with the Council's Organisational Development Strategy so that Members are able to take advantage of opportunities offered to staff, and vice-versa, where appropriate.
8. The Member Development Strategy 2014-17 is attached to this report at **Appendix A.**
9. The Portfolio Holder has indicated that, in the main, the Member Charter standards were helpful in taking Member learning and development forward. He has indicated, however, that it is not planned to apply for re-accreditation but to use the Member Development Strategy, together with the Organisational Development Strategy and associated action plan, as a vehicle to deliver Member learning, development and support in the future.

Options

10. To approve the Strategy subject to any amendments Full Council may wish to make.
11. Not to approve the Strategy.

Implications

12. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, there are no significant implications.

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