

7 July 2021

Report of	Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Richard Clifford ☎ 507832
Title	Member Development Group Annual Report 2020-21		
Wards affected	'Not applicable'		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of the Member Development Group is to provide a forum where members can advise on the planning, delivery and evaluation of member development activities. It is an all-party group and is chaired by the portfolio holder with responsibility for member development. The Group is required to report to Cabinet on an annual basis. This report meets this requirement and summarises the work of the Group during the 2020-21 municipal year. The Annual Report sets out information on the provision of member development, expenditure on the member development budget and the progress on Charter Status for Elected Member Development.

2. Recommended Decision

2.1 To receive and note the report of the Member Development Group on the work of the Group in the 2020-21 municipal year.

2.2 To agree that the Council's reassessment for Charter Status should be scheduled for December 2021.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

3.1 The Member Development Group is required to report to Cabinet on an annual basis. This provides Cabinet with an opportunity to review the work of the Group and the provision of member development.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 No alternative options are presented.

5. Background Information

Annual Report

5.1 The Annual Report of the Member Development Group for 2020-21 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. This sets out information about the background to the group and its terms of reference and composition. It summarises the main areas of work undertaken by the Group and provides information about the range of development activities undertaken by members of Colchester Borough Council in 2020-21.

5.2 The Council was originally awarded Charter Status in July 2011 and was successful in securing reaccreditation in January 2015 and July 2018. Accreditation is for a period of three years, with a light touch interim reassessment after 18 months. This was successfully passed in January 2020. The current period of accreditation will end in July 2021 and the Council has agreed to seek reaccreditation.

5.3 The reaccreditation assessment would normally be held after 3 years i.e. in July 2021. However, the assessing authority, South East Employers Organisation, has indicated that there is some flexibility around this date and that the reassessment can take place up to December 2021. It is proposed that this additional period will give further opportunity to prepare for the reassessment and that therefore the offer to schedule the reassessment to December 2021 be accepted.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 An EQIA for the councillor development policy has been prepared and can be accessed via the link below.

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2290&p=0>

7. Strategic Plan References

7.1 Member development supports all the Strategic Plan priorities by promoting the skills and knowledge members need in order to fulfil their roles effectively.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The Annual Report sets out expenditure against the member development budget for the 2020-21 municipal year. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8.2 The LGA fee for the Charter programme is £3000, which has already been met from the Member Development Budget.

9. Standard References

9.1 There are no particular references to consultation or publicity considerations or community safety; health and safety, environmental sustainability or risk management implications.