

6 July 2022

Report of	Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Richard Clifford ☎ 507832
Title	Member Development Group Annual Report 2021-22		
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 2021-22 municipal year. The Annual Report sets out information on the provision of member development, expenditure on the member development budget and the outcome of the Council's assessment for the Councillor Development Charter.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To receive and note the report of the Member Development Group on the work of the Group in the 2021-22 municipal year.
- 2.2 To note the successful outcome of the assessment for the Councillor Development Charter.

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 2021-22 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 2021-22.

5.2 The main focus of the Group's work in 2021-22 was to prepare for the assessment for the Councillor Development Charter, which is an external review on behalf of the Local Government Association of the Council's member development and support processes. The Assessment was held in April 2022 and the Council was successful in maintaining its Charter status. This has now been maintained since 2011. The value of Charter Status is that it demonstrates that the Council's member development processes are in line with good practice. This provides reassurance to current and potential members, and to other external inspections such as Peer Reviews. It also provides a reassurance to residents that their elected representatives are provided with effective support to enable them to undertake their roles and responsibilities effectively.

5.3 The Assessment Team's report is included as an Appendix to the Member Development Group's report. They highlighted a number of special mentions and areas of continuous improvement, which will form the basis of the Group's work programme going forward.

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 2021-222 municipal year. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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.