

**Extract from the minutes of the Member Development Group meeting of 26 January 2017**

**Member Charter Status**

The Group considered a report from the Assistant Chief Executive inviting the Committee to consider whether it should commit to seeking reaccreditation for Charter Status for Elected Member Development and if so, at what level.

The Council had originally been awarded Member Charter Status in July 2011 and was successful in being reaccredited in January 2015. Charter Status is awarded for a period of three years with an interim reassessment after 18 months. This was successfully passed in June 2016. The full reassessment was due in January 2018. The Council therefore needed to decide whether to commit to the full reassessment and seek reaccreditation.

The Group noted the criteria for Charter Status and that the Charter requirements largely reflect existing practice. It also noted the outcome of an informal survey of a sample of members about the value and benefits of Charter Status. This had revealed that whilst awareness of Charter Status was not universal across members, members clearly felt that the member development brought tangible benefits and there was support for continued accreditation. A number of improvements to member development procedures had also been suggested in the course of the survey.

The Group considered that a recommendation should be made to Cabinet that the Council seek reaccreditation for Charter Status. It considered that the Charter Status requirements ensured that the Council's member development procedures and processes would continue to meet best practice. It would ensure that members were supported and given the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfil their role and the Council's strategic priorities.

The Group noted the requirements of the higher level of accreditation, Charter Plus. After careful consideration of the evidential requirements for both Charter and Charter Plus status, and given the likely resource necessary for Charter Plus, it considered that accreditation should be sought at Charter Status level. However,

work should continue towards Charter Plus status in the long term, so that the higher accreditation could be sought in the future.

*RECOMMENDED* to Cabinet that the Council recommit to the Charter and seek reaccreditation for Charter Status for Elected Member Development in January 2018.