
Member Development Steering Group

23 May 2009

Report of the Head of Civic Legal and Democratic Services

IdEA Member Development Charter Status – Implementation Plan

This report sets out a proposed implementation plan to work towards achieving Charter Status by October 2010.

Background

- 1 At the last meeting in May 2009, the Steering Group received a brief overview from Mike Leitch, consultant to the Yorkshire & Humber Local Government Region, on what was required to achieve Charter Status. An implementation plan has subsequently been prepared setting out the key actions and steps required to gain Charter status by October 2010.

Implementation Plan and Self-Assessment

2. Attached at Annex A is the proposed Implementation Plan upon, which Mike Leitch has been consulted to ensure it is practical and flexible enough to meet the required elements for Charter status.
3. The Plan sets out what key actions are required against the latest Self-Assessment template for achieving the Charter and cross references relevant sections of the template. The up to date version of the template is attached for Members' perusal at Annex B.
4. It is essential to have an achievable plan in place to set appropriate targets up to October 2010. It will then guide our progress along the way. Periodic updates on progress can be received at future Working Group meetings if necessary.

Consultation

5. Consultation is taking place with Mike Leitch on the content of the proposed implementation plan to ensure it meets the essential requirements of the self-assessment template. Any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

Options

The following options are available to Members:

6. (a) to agree the Implementation Plan as set out in Annex A;

(b) to agree a plan revised as appropriate further to any comments made at the meeting or any comments received from Mike Leitch.

Corporate Strategy 2009/12

7. Providing a clear, consistent framework for developing and training Members fits with the Council's ambitions in its refreshed Corporate Strategy to make York a learning city.

Implications

8. There are no direct financial, human resources, legal, property, crime & disorder or other implications associated with this report as such. However, it should be noted that there will resource and equalities implications as the work progresses. There will be staffing implications in undertaking and supporting this work, given that the majority of support will come from the Senior Member Support Officer, who has many other responsibilities on a day to day basis. However, efforts are being made to recruit a part-time Member Support & Development Officer to work with the Senior Member Support Officer on this and other tasks.

Equally, there will be equalities implications since some of the assessment requirements are specifically about access, relating not only to meetings and development opportunities but to decision making processes. For that reason, the plan specifically suggests undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment on this work and any policy or working documents we are required to produce.

Risk Management

9. If members do not agree an implementation plan with clearly defined actions for achieving Charter status, there is a risk the proposed timetable of working towards October 2010 will fail. Consequently, the decision taken by the Executive for the Council to achieve this status would not be implemented.

Equally, it is essential to remember why Council initially established this Steering Group, which was fundamentally to develop and integrate training for members within the Council. Working towards that engagement and integration is this Group's main priority and achieving Charter status needs to be seen as a part of that process and not the primary driver.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended the Member Development Steering Group approve the attached Implementation Plan for achieving Charter status by October 2010, as amended or otherwise.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 12 June 2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes:

Annex A – Implementation Plan
Annex B – Self Assessment Template