

Member Development Charter Status – Evidence Gathering

Summary

1. This report gives Members an update on progress with gathering evidence for the Council's submission towards achieving IdeA Member Development Charter Status.

Background

IdeA Charter Status – Progress To Date

2. This Steering Group has already approved an implementation plan setting out a projected timeline and what needs to be in place in order for the Council to achieve Charter Status by Autumn 2010.
3. Currently, good progress is being made towards putting the essential building blocks in place for achieving the Charter but perhaps more importantly for creating a structured and supportive environment for delivering training to Members within the Council. So far in 2009:
 - The Member Development Steering Group has been set up and meets regularly
 - A Member Development Policy and Statement of Commitment have been created, which Council will be asked to approve in December 2009;
 - A Core Training & Development Programme for 2009/10 has been produced and is now running;
 - Take up of events and activities is now being monitored (see separate report on this agenda);
 - Events attended and activities undertaken are being evaluated for their use and success;
 - An extensive number of Personal Development Reviews is now being offered and these are underway individually with relevant Members

4. Attached at Annex A, is a table showing what evidence the IdeA suggest is necessary against key areas for achieving Charter Status. The table gives an early indication of where evidence is currently available and where the potential gaps are. Members may wish to comment on what more could be done at this stage.

Consultation

5. Throughout this process of working towards Charter status, the Council is being advised by Mike Leitch, Local Government Yorkshire and Humber representative and he has been asked to comment upon the evidence the Council can currently provide. He will be attending the meeting of the Steering Group and will advise on our progress to date in this area and be in a position to give a preliminary view on what other types of evidence would be useful.
6. As a result of this meeting, it is hoped that the Council will be in a position to invite Mike Leitch to undertake an initial preliminary assessment with the Senior Member Support Officer in the New Year. The purpose of this being to ensure the Council is fully prepared when the final formal assessment is undertaken in the summer of 2010.

Options

7. This report is for information at this stage but Members have the option of indicating any further areas or ways in which appropriate evidence may be gathered.

Corporate Priorities

8. Achieving I&DeA Member Development Charter Status will contribute to this Council being an 'effective organisation' with high standards in delivering training and development to Members in a coordinated and structured way.

Implications

9. There are no known legal, financial or other implications associated with this report. However, there are clearly human resource implications associated with gathering the evidence required to support the Council's application for Charter Status. At the moment, that work predominantly falls upon the Senior Member Support Officer who is the Council's nominated officer supporting Members' training and development. The Democratic Services Manager is currently looking at the impact upon resources of the additional work which may be required.

Risk Management

10. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, the only risk associated with the contents of this report would be the failure to gain Charter

Status due to insufficient evidence being available. Naturally, the Council needs to be as fully prepared as possible for assessment in summer 2010

Recommendation

11. Members are asked to note the current position on where evidence is or will be available for achieving Charter status and to comment upon where further evidence may be obtained, if appropriate.

Reason

12. In order to comply with the requirements of the I&DeA Charter.

Contact Details

Author:

Dawn Steel
Democratic Services Manager

Amanda Oxley
Senior Member Support Officer

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Alison Lowton
Interim Head of Civic Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved

Date 17/112009

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes:

Annex A –Assessment of Evidence for Charter Status