

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Governance and Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 September 2009
Report of: Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title: Member Development Strategy 2009/2010 and Policy Statement 2009/2010

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to invite the Governance and Constitution Committee to approve and adopt the Member Development Strategy and Policy Statement for Cheshire East Council.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Member Development Strategy 2009/2010 and associated Policy Statement 2009/2010 be approved and adopted with immediate effect.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To meet the requirements of the North West Charter for Elected Member Development, Cheshire East Council is required to have in place a Member Development Strategy. Formal approval of the document will add weight to the Council's application for accreditation under the Charter.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 None

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Policy Statement is an extract from the main Strategy created for ease of reference and does not, in itself, form a stand alone document.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 7.1 There are no such implications arising from the proposals contained in the report.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 8.1 There are no such implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 None identified

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 Without formal adoption of the Member Development Strategy, the Council's application for accreditation under the North West Charter on Elected Member Development would be weakened.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 From its inception in January 2009, the Member Development Panel has been working towards the creation of a framework for the delivery of Member Training and Development at Cheshire East Council. The elements which make up the framework have now been brought together to form the Member Development Strategy 2009/2010 (Appendix 1).
- 11.2 The Strategy has been produced to enable the Council to realise the full potential of its Members and is tailored to the Council's needs. Its key aims and objectives are to:
- Establish a culture whereby continuous elected Member Development is seen as a key component to the success of the organisation
 - Identify individual and common learning needs; ensuring that the Member Development Programme consistently addresses these needs and the Council's strategic themes
 - Provide Members with the opportunity to access events and activities that are appropriate to their roles and responsibilities, recognising the importance of their role within the Council, their constituencies and with partner organisations
 - Enable Members to be fully conversant with the Council's key strategic themes, in order that their activities as Councillors are consistent with Council priorities
 - Ensure that the ongoing requirements of the North West Charter on Elected Member Development are met
- 11.3 It is intended that the Strategy will be used primarily at Induction as a means of explaining to new Members the Council's commitment to Member Training and Development. However, to ensure that all serving Councillors are similarly informed, the Committee is invited to formally approve the document so that it can be issued to Members.

- 11.4 For ease of reference, a short policy statement has been created which summarises the commitments outlined in the document and the Committee is invited to formally approve this document also (Appendix 2).

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 The adoption of the strategy provides a framework for the future which will be reviewed in 12 months time.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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