

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 17 DECEMBER 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP & LIAISON

EAST HERTS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PLEDGE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To adopt the East Herts 'Member Development Pledge'

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u>	
(A)	That the East Herts Member Development Pledge be endorsed and formally signed, on behalf of Members, by the leaders of all political groups represented on the Council.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The South East Employers (SEE) regional organisation operates a Member Development Charter scheme which is designed to support local authorities to have a strategic approach to the training and skills development of elected Members.
- 1.2 To gain Charter (or Charter Plus) status, a local authority has to be externally assessed against a detailed set of criteria to show they are meeting the standards required under a wide range of requirements. A full set of accreditation guidelines is available on their website at <http://www.seemp.co.uk/index/llrgov/emcharter/emcmilestones.htm>
- 1.3 East Herts applied for Charter status and was successfully assessed on 16 June 2011. The Charter was awarded for a term of three years and a successful mid-term review was held on 14 January 2013.
- 1.4 As part of the standards required under the Charter, the member training and development programme at East Herts has been

overseen by a member-led Member Development Charter Group made up of representatives from all political groups and officers (April 2010 – to current).

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Charter status lapsed after three years (in June 2014). The Member Development Charter Group is confident that the structure the authority now has in place for member development is robust enough to maintain the high standards set by the Charter.
- 2.2 However, without formal Charter status, the Council has no public facing documentation to indicate its commitment to developing and supporting elected members to take on their community role and other duties required by committee membership or leadership.
- 2.3 **Essential Reference Paper B** shows a Member Development Pledge produced by the Charter Group and supported by the three political group leaders within the Council. These leaders are invited to formally sign a display copy of this document at the end of this Council meeting.
- 2.4 The Member Development Charter Group will now drop the word 'Charter' from its title.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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