

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Governance) (Introduced by the Executive Member for People)	Executive Cabinet	12 November 2009

LEVEL TWO OF THE ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform the Cabinet of the Council's success in achieving level two of North West Employers Elected Members Development Charter.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	✓

BACKGROUND

- In 2006 the Council was successful in achieving Level one of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter. The Charter is a clear indication of Elected Members commitment to training and personal development and also a commitment to improving the performance of the Council overall.
- In 2009 the Council was due to be reassessed against the standards of the Charter:
 - Having a statement of intent
 - Ensuring that all Members are made aware of training and development opportunities
 - Having a process to identify individual development needs which involves Members
 - Having an officer allocated to assist Members and Groups in identifying needs and providing information on resources
 - Having a Strategy to meet the training and development needs of elected members
- North West Employers have in the last two years developed a higher level Charter (Charter 2) and the opportunity was taken to be measured against this higher standard. In order to do so we still had to continue to meet the Level 1 standard.

LEVEL TWO OF THE CHARTER

7. The Level 2 Charter is a more challenging level, looking at the impact that training and development has on Councillors and in their work in the community. The application had to be based on a particular area of training and also show areas of excellence. Neighbourhood Working was chosen as the area to be assessed against as it was a new initiative for the Council and keeping Members engaged and informed was critical to the process. The elements of the Neighbourhood Working programme that were put forward in the application were:

- Ward Walks with the Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)
- 100% of Councillors with Personal Development Plans
- A programme of learning in 2008/09 focussing on neighbourhood based issues eg Planning in Practice, Assessing Ward Resources, Strategic Housing Issues, Families First project etc
- A Neighbourhood Bus Tour looking at Borough wide neighbourhood issues
- Neighbourhood Action Plans, sign up meetings and Neighbourhood Tours.

MEMBER SUPPORT WORKING GROUP

8. The application was led and supported throughout by the Member Support Working Group. The assessment process took place in August and September and was an interview process of Councillors, officers and external representatives.

FEEDBACK FROM NW EMPLOYERS

9. The feedback from the process is excellent and is attached for Members information. Councillors can feel proud of the achievements, we are one of only six Councils in the North West region to have achieved Charter 2 – and along with Fylde are the only two district Councils. Some Councils in the North West have yet to achieve Level 1 of the Charter.

CORPORATE PROJECT

10. The project to achieve this standard was included as a project in the Corporate Strategy and impacts on the long term outcome of ensuring the Council is an excellent community leader as well as a consistently top performing organisation.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources	✓	Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HUMAN RESOURCES)

With regard to Member Development, the Human Resources Directorate will support Democratic Services in the continuing training needs analysis process, identifying training aims and objectives and assist in evaluating training and development provision. We will also directly provide training and development sessions for Members where appropriate.

ANDREW DOCHERTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

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