

ASSEMBLY

10 October 2012

Title: Presentation of London Charter for Elected Member Development	
Report of: The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Human Resources	
Open	For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Fiona Jamieson	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8277 2877 E-mail: Fiona.jamieson@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Divisional Director:	Fiona Taylor, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Accountable Director:	Graham Farrant, the Chief Executive
Summary: The Council was successfully re-assessed on 25 July 2012 for the London Boroughs Charter for Elected Member Development. The award is being formally presented to Assembly this evening by Councillor Catherine West, Leader of Islington Council, a member of the Assessment Panel, on behalf of London Councils. Members and Chief Officers have previously been sent a full copy of the Assessment report.	
Recommendation(s) To note the report and accept the Charter	
Reason(s) The presentation of the Charter at the Assembly profiles the Council's commitment to a high standard of Member development.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Barking & Dagenham was initially awarded the London Councils Charter for Elected Member Development in February 2009. Following a re-assessment in the summer the Council has been re-awarded Charter status for three years from 25 July 2012, the first London Borough to do so.
- 1.2 The Charter is a nationally recognised structured quality framework. It assesses the processes, impact and effectiveness of member development. A majority of councils in England and 50% of London authorities have Charter status.

- 1.3 A Self Assessment together with relevant strategies, plans, programmes, reports, handbooks, performance data and notes from key meetings were provided to the Assessors prior to the day of the assessment interviews.

2. Proposal and Issues

- 2.1 All key standards for the Charter have successfully been met by Barking & Dagenham. These are:
- Commitment to Councillor development
 - Strategic approach to Councillor development
 - Learning and development is effective in building capacity
 - Supporting Councillors
- 2.2 The Council will be required to present evidence of continuing progress in eighteen months' time and will need to be re-assessed in full against the Charter standard in three years in order to maintain the Award.
- 2.3 Councillor Catherine West, Leader of Islington Council is in attendance this evening to formally present the council with the award

3. Options Appraisal

- 3.1 There is no statutory requirement to gain Charter status. However, the Charter provides Members with an assurance that the Council is attaining a high development standard; a structured approach to assessing current performance and how to improve; London-wide and national benchmarking of standards; external assurance that the Council is committed to Member Development, and access to six monthly Charter learning events for Members

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The following Members and Officers were interviewed during the Charter Assessment process:
- **Members:** Councillor Rocky Gill (Deputy Leader of the Council), Councillor Linda Reason (Chair of the Member Development Group), Councillor Inder Singh Jamu, Councillor Nirmal Gill, Councillor Eileen Keller, Councillor Graham Letchford, Councillor Hardial Singh Rai, Councillor Pam Burgon, Councillor Barry Poulton, Councillor Gerry Vincent, Councillor Milton McKenzie and Councillor Abdul Salam
 - **Officers:** Anne Bristow (Corporate Director of Adult & Community Services) – on behalf of the Chief Executive, John Dawe (Group Manager Democratic Services), Fiona Jamieson (Organisation and Member Development Officer), Kat Cooper (Graduate Trainee), Masuma Ahmed (Democratic Services Officer).

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Olufunke Johnson

Telephone and email: (020 8227 2485) olufunke.johnson@lddb.gov.uk

- 5.1 The Charter standard assumes there is a budget for Members Development and support, which will continue to be met within existing Democratic Service's revenue budgets.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Eldred Taylor-Camara, Legal Group Manager

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

London Charter for Elected Member Development Assessors' Report 9 August 2012

List of appendices: None