

ASSEMBLY

25 November 2020

Title: London Boroughs Charter for Councillor Development Award	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Aspiration	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Leanna McPherson, Principal Governance Officer	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2852 E-mail: leanna.mcpherson.jamieson@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Strategic leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Acting Deputy Chief Executive	
Summary The Council was successfully re-assessed on 9 September 2020 for the London Boroughs Charter for Councillor Development at the Charter Plus standard. This will be formally awarded to Assembly this evening by Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz on behalf of London Councils. Cllr Comer-Schwartz was a member of the Assessment Panel and is the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families and Deputy Leader, London Borough of Islington.	
Recommendation To note the report and accept the Councillor Development Charter Plus Award.	
Reason(s) The formal awarding of Councillor Development Charter Plus to 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, with a successful reassessment held in July 2012. The higher level Charter Plus standard was awarded and maintained following assessments held in December 2016 and September 2020.
- 1.2 The Councillor Development Charter is a nationally recognised, structured quality framework. It assesses the processes, impact and effectiveness of Member development.
- 1.3 A self-assessment together with relevant strategies, plans, programmes, reports, Member resources, 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 Councillor Development Charter have successfully been met by Barking & Dagenham at the Charter Plus standard. These are:

- Clear Commitment to Councillor development and support
- Strategic approach to Councillor development
- Learning and development is effective in building skills and knowledge

2.2 Councillor Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families and Deputy Leader, London Borough of Islington is in attendance this evening to 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 and external assurance that the Council is committed to Member development.

4. Consultation

4.1 The following Members, Officers and Partner Organisations were interviewed during the Charter Plus assessment process:

Members: Councillor Darren Rodwell (Leader of the Council), Councillor Sade Bright, Councillor Jane Jones, Councillor Edna Fergus, Councillor Muhammad Saleem, Councillor Ingrid Robinson and Councillor Donna Lumsden.

Officers: Claire Symonds (Acting Chief Executive), Fiona Taylor (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), Alan Dawson (Head of Governance and Electoral Services), Fiona Jamieson (Organisation and Member Development Officer), Leanna McPherson (Principal Governance Officer), Claudia Wakefield (Senior Governance Officer) and Lois Taylor (Governance Officer)

Partner organisations: Himanshu Jain, (Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum), Nathan Singleton (Healthwatch), Sharon Thomas (Adult College of Barking and Dagenham), Avril McIntyre (BD_Collective), Ceri Jacob (Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups), James Coulstock (BeFirst) and Matthew Carpen (Barking Riverside Ltd)

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Christine South, Finance Business Partner

5.1 There are no financial implications for the proposed Councillor Development Charter Plus Award

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Dr Paul Field, Senior Governance Solicitor

- 6.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires that all local authorities have a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted Members. Member development programmes are key to this important objective.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

London Charter for Councillor Development Assessors' Report October 2020