

# Report

## Democratic Services Committee

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### Part 1

Date: 9 November 2017

**Subject** **The Wales Charter for Member Support and Development**

**Purpose** To present the criteria and assessment process for the Charter, for discussion and action planning.

**Author** Democratic Services and Communications Manager

**Ward** All Wards

**Summary** The Welsh Local Government Association established the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development in 2012, in response to the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the new legislative requirements for corporate governance and member support and development.

As is described in the attached guidance, the Charter aims to provide a broad framework for local planning, self-assessment, action and review, together with networking and comparison among local authorities and the sharing of good and innovative practice.

With a new Cabinet lead for Member Development appointed, and the WLGA role descriptions adopted at Council in April, we are well placed to now embark on the self-assessment process with a view to achieving the Charter accreditation. It is suggested that, as a cross-party group with responsibility for Member support, the Democratic Services Committee could oversee and drive this process, in collaboration with the Cabinet Member.

The Criteria and Assessment Process for the Charter is attached.

**Proposal** **In order to plan the next steps in this process, the Committee is asked to consider and discuss the attached criteria, including:**

- (i) The Council's current position against the criteria**
- (ii) Further actions needed to meet the Charter requirements**

**Action by** Democratic Services and Communications Manager

**Timetable** Immediate

## **Background**

The Welsh Local Government Association established the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development in 2012, in response to the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the new legislative requirements for corporate governance and member support and development.

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## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no financial implications in considering the Charter criteria. Any actions resulting from the decisions will need to be achieved from existing budgets.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

To follow.

## **Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

To follow.

## **Background Papers**

WLGA Wales Charter for Member Support & Development

Dated: 2 November 2017