

**REPORT OF INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AGENDA ITEM: 5  
THE WALES CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**Reason for this Report**

1. To provide the Committee with information on the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development (**Appendix A**), for Committee to review the information; and to consider any comments or observations it considers appropriate in this regard.

**Background**

2. Elected Members today face increasing challenges. Under the modernisation agenda, there are increasing expectations to undertake a diversity of roles ranging from community leader to a number of special responsibilities within the Council. Cardiff Council strives to provide the best possible support for Members to enable them to meet these challenges. This takes the form of skill and knowledge development, support facilities, and support services.
3. The Welsh Local Government Association has developed a national programme of support, the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. This was developed in collaboration with Members representing each of the political groups and Member Support Officers from across Wales.
4. This Charter aims to provide a broad framework for local planning, self-assessment, action and review together with networking and comparison amongst authorities and the sharing of good and innovative practice.
5. The Charter has been in place since 2007 and many Authorities have already achieved the Charter or the revised Advanced Charter. To date Cardiff has not engaged with this process.

**Issues**

6. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 introduced legislative requirements for corporate governance and member support and development. In 2012, the Charter criteria were further developed to enhance and enable these legal requirements. An example is the requirement for Personal Development Reviews to be provided to Members on request. The Charter requires Members to be provided with role

descriptions which support these Personal Development Reviews.  
Appendix A sets out the new Criteria and assessment process.

7. The Committee is invited to review the information presented in this report and to make any comments it considers appropriate in this regard.

### **Legal Implications**

8. There are no legal implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **Financial Implications**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any comments in respect of the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development would need to consider potential resource implications.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee notes the information supplied at **Appendix A** on the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development and makes any comments it considers appropriate.

**Andrew Kerr**  
**Interim Head of Democratic Services**  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

APPENDIX A – The Wales Charter for Member Support and Development: The New Criteria and Assessment Process.