

First council in East of England receives Member Development award

Broadland District Council is the first council in the East of England to have been awarded the Charter for Elected Member Development.

Elected Members of Broadland District Council were successful after two years of preparation, a portfolio of work being submitted and a day of assessment. The Charter for Elected Member Development is a national initiative that has been developed in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and the 9 regional employer's organisations, which in this region is the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), aiming to develop elected members to help meet the needs of the local community.

"We are very proud to be the first council in the east of England to be awarded the member development charter" said Councillor Andrew Proctor, Deputy Leader of Broadland District Council and Portfolio holder for Information Technology, Human Resources and Change Management. "Our Members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, have much to offer and get involved in a range of interesting work on a council such as Broadland. There was a lot of hard work put in by both members and officers to get this far which is a demonstration of the commitment from the organisation to provide both training and development opportunities to fulfil our varied roles for the benefit of the community as whole".

Members had the opportunity to learn and develop their role as an Elected Member at Broadland Council's Training Centre in Hellesdon, with the help of officers from the HR department, Committee Services and Broadland Council Training Services (BCTS) from Broadland District Council. The training also linked to the local government training programmes offered by BCTS which train and develop people in the ever changing needs of Local Government.

The Charter has a number of objectives:

- Being fully committed to developing Elected Members in order to achieve the council's aims.
- Adopting a member led strategic approach to Elected Member development.
- Having a member learning and development plan in place that clearly identifies the difference development activities will make.
- Seeing that learning and development is effective in building capacity.
- Addressing wider development matters to promote work-life balance and citizenship.

Local authorities who participate in the scheme are required to sign up to the charter to demonstrate their commitment to improving performance through the development of their elected members. One way in which the charter will help to develop members is to establish their different training needs both individually and council wide.

Mark Palmer, Head of Improvement and Development for South East Employers and leader of the assessment team of the EERA, said "We would like to congratulate

Broadland District Council for becoming the first council to achieve Charter status in the Eastern Region. The assessment team was impressed with the commitment to councillor development across the organisation and the demonstrable benefit that it brought to the community. There are increasing expectations on what councillors need to deliver and new skills required and the support and development provided to all councillors at Broadland will assist them to respond to these changing expectations ".

"This is a result of team work between officers and members at Broadland" said Councillor Jo Cottingham, who has been the chairman of the working group for member development for the last two years. "The assessment team were particularly complimentary about the Member ownership of our training and development arrangements and the leadership being shown by Members in working towards Charter status. The team approach and support from staff members, including the Chief Executive showed the assessment team we have been working hard together for member development. "

The Chairman of EERA, Sue Sida-Lockett, will formally present the Charter to the Council on Tuesday 20th March at 6.30pm at Thorpe Lodge before the full council meeting that evening.

Ends

Member Contacts

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