



Elmbridge News

18th July 2007

Elmbridge Council's Charter Success

Following an independent, external assessment, Elmbridge Borough Council has been awarded the 'Charter for Member Development' by South East Employers and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA).

This national Charter recognises the Council's commitment and performance in providing effective and comprehensive induction, development and support to our 60 Members to enable them to successfully fulfill their varied and challenging roles as elected Councillors for the Borough.

Councillor Roy Taylor, Leader of the Council, said: "It is excellent news and a fantastic achievement for Elmbridge Council to be awarded this Charter. I would like to thank Members and officers, for their hard work, which has led to us achieving Charter status. We remain committed to ensure effective Councillor development is in place so that all Councillors can continue to provide the best service possible to local residents."

Support includes:

- An Induction Programme for newly-elected Members;
- A comprehensive Annual Member Development Programme with a range of sessions linked to the Council's priorities and responsibilities; and
- Leading partnership work with other Boroughs to deliver joint development sessions.

The support provided to Members is evaluated and continues to be developed each year following consultation with all Members. Whilst the Council already had well-established

arrangements in place it continues to develop these arrangements and welcomes external accreditation through the award of the Charter.

Councillor Chris Sadler, one of the Council appointed Member Champions for Member Development and Leader of the Residents' Associations Group said,
"Councillor development is important to us and helps us to address the challenge of having truly effective Councillors from day one."

Councillor Graham Winton, one of the Council appointed Member Champions for Member Development and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group said, "I welcome the opportunity to meet other Councillors and to share our experiences in a learning environment."

END

Editors Notes

The Assessment Team comprised:

- Robin Taylor, South East Employers (SEE)
- Annie Petch, East Sussex County Council
- Councillor Pauline Helliard-Symons, SEE Member Peer

South East Employers is one of the nine regional employers' organisations which represent the interest of local authorities and public sector bodies in England.

The IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

The IDeA works in partnership with councils to develop the sector as a whole.

For more information on the Charter visit www.seemp.co.uk

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