



Belfast City Council and the Charter for Elected Member Development

17 January 2012

Belfast gains charter status for elected member development

Belfast has become the first council in Northern Ireland to be awarded charter status in recognition of its role in providing development opportunities for politicians.

The Charter for Elected Member Development is being rolled out by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), and aims to formally recognise commitment and excellence in ensuring councillors are able to undertake their roles and responsibilities effectively.

More than 200 local authorities in England are already using the charter, which has been hailed as an effective framework to develop training opportunities for elected representatives.

The Charter was presented at a reception in City Hall this afternoon (17 January 2012).

The Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Niall Ó Donnghaile, said: “The roles and skills required by elected members are complex, challenging and constantly evolving. It is therefore a real coup for Belfast City Council to be recognised for its innovative and proactive approach in ensuring that we all as politicians are equipped with the necessary skills to undertake our roles to the best of our abilities.

“I am delighted that we in Belfast City Council are reflecting best practice and at the forefront of leading initiatives that will ultimately benefit our city and its citizens”.