

# South East Charter for Elected Member Development



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24 April 2008



[www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk)



# Background – Woking Borough Council



- 30 Miles South West of London
- Population 90,700
- 36 Elected Members
  - 19 Conservative
  - 17 Liberal Democrat
- Elections by thirds

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# Programme



- Why commit to the charter
- Woking's journey
- Does the charter make a difference?
- Key examples of promoting work life balance and citizenship

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# Why Commit to the Charter?



- The increasing pressures on local government and the modernisation agenda has placed an increasing emphasis on an authority's need to rethink its approach to member support and development.
- Charter provides a systematic and co-ordinated framework for member development.



# Woking's Journey



- **December 2005** - Council Meeting committed to signing up to the Elected Member Development Charter;
- **April 2006** – Group Leaders and the Chief Executive made the commitment to improving and sustaining the standards of Member Development, by signing the South East Charter for Elected Member Development;



# Woking's Journey (Continued)



- **May 2006** – Cross Party Task Group established to work towards Charter Status;
- **July 2006** – Task Group undertook a Self Assessment reviewing existing provision and identified areas for change and development;
- **October 2006** – Strategy Action Plan (Shikari) – Approved by Executive;
- **December 2006** – Member Development Policy Approved by Council;



# Woking's Journey (Continued)



- **January 2007** – Development Needs Questionnaire sent to all members;
- **March 2007** – 2007/08 Learning and Development Plan Approved; and
- **May 2007** onwards – Implementation of Learning and Development Plan and Strategy Action Plan.
- **January 2008** – Achieved Charter Status



# Does the Charter make a difference?



- The Council has a commitment to continuous improvement in Member development
- Developed a focus for learning and development
- Assisted Members in their contribution to the Council's key targets
- Strengthened and improved arrangements for Member development and training
- Members are more supported in their roles
- Members feel better informed and thus better able to support local communities



# Key Objectives of the Charter



- Commitment to Member development
- Strategic approach to Member development
- Member learning and development plan in place
- Learning and development in effective in building capacity
- Elected Member development promotes work life balance and citizenship



# How have we addressed key objective No. 5



## Elected Member Development promotes Work Life Balance and Citizenship

1. Assists those with family responsibilities
2. Reviews how council business is conducted to allow for equality of access to key political decision making mechanisms
3. Holds events for the community to encourage people to become community leaders



# Elected Member Development Promotes Work Life Balance and Citizenship



## Key Examples

- Could you be a Councillor? Seminar
- Local Democracy Week
  - ESOL Classes, Debates
  - Speed Debating, Secondary Schools
  - Cab Cam, Video Diary
- Woking Youth Council

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# Elected Member Development promotes Work Life Balance and Citizenship



## Key Examples

- Councillor Pages on E.WOK – Intranet
- e-Learning
- Shikari

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# Elected Member Development promotes Work Life Balance and Citizenship



## Key Examples

- Government Funding for Community Workers
- Meetings with Community Leaders
  - Woking People of Faith Forum
  - Woking Asian Business Forum
- Woking Mela

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# Elected Member Development promotes Work Life Balance and Citizenship



## Key Examples

- Neighbourhood Management
  - Citizen Engagement
  - Tune In Events
  - Citizen Empowerment



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