



Report to: Report to Cabinet

Subject: Member Charter Status

Date: 18 February 2010

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1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek approval for Council to be asked to commit to seeking Member Charter status.

2. **BACKGROUND**

In a drive to ensure that elected members across the East Midlands had the opportunity to build upon their skills and extend their knowledge of local government issues, the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership established a target of 60% of local authorities to have achieved Member Charter status by March 2011.

The Member Charter is an external accreditation that signifies that a local authority is committed to improving council performance through the development of their members. The charter assessment will look for a strategic approach to councillor development and that learning and development is effective and promotes citizenship.

Independent reports across the County highlighted that no authority within Nottinghamshire had achieved the award of the Member Charter.

In order to progress the matter a bid was submitted on behalf of all the district councils, the City Council and County Council for funding the support a co-ordinated approach. This bid was successful and consultants were appointed to work with the Nottinghamshire authorities to develop a sustainable framework for member training and to support partnership authorities to achieve the Member Charter.

Work has been ongoing and all the council's within the partnership are now being asked to make a formal commitment to work to achieve the Charter.

3. **PROPOSAL**

Cabinet is asked to approve the commitment to achieving Member Charter Status and to recommend to full Council that the Council formally enter into that agreement.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council be recommended to sign up to the East Midlands Regional Councillor Development Charter