

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	13 January 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	South East Charter for Elected Member Development

The Member Development Task Group at the meeting held on 25 November 2019, considered a report on the Council's recommitment to the South East Charter for Elected Member Development. The recommendation and minute arising is reproduced below.

Recommendation to COUNCIL: That the Council does not recommit to renewing the South East Charter for Elected Member development when it expires in March 2021.

7. **SEE CHARTER FOR ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT RECOMMITMENT**

The Council was awarded the South East Employers (SEE) Charter for Elected Member Development for a fourth time in March 2018; the Council had successfully retained the Charter continuously for over 10 years. The Charter provided a robust, structured framework designed to enhance and hone Member development. A successful 18 month review had taken place in October 2019. Renewal of the award was due to be considered for March 2021 and the Council needed to recommit in January 2020 to ensure sufficient time for renewal, if it wished to retain the status. The renewal fee was £3,000 and was usually funded from the Member Training Budget.

Members gave consideration to renewing the Charter Status and it was considered that the Council could cease the accreditation and save both financial and officer resources. The training and development work would still be carried out whether or not the Council was committed to the Charter, but it was really a question of whether the Council wanted the Charter Award. It was noted that the Council was the only local authority in East Sussex to retain the Charter and that all other authorities across the county had either had it once and never renewed or never sought it. Members felt the standard of training had improved tremendously over the years, which was certainly due to the adoption of the SEE Charter Award, however, the renewal fee could now be put to better use and used to fund training and development. It was therefore agreed by the MDTG to recommend to Council, via Cabinet that the Council should not re-apply for Charter Status.

Malcolm Johnston
Executive Director