

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

COUNCIL

25 JUNE 2014

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AND THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN
RESOURCES**

Agenda Item No. 8

**THE GOOD PRACTICE AND
INNOVATION AWARD FOR
MEMBER SUPPORT AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the Council's success in achieving the Good Practice and Innovation Award for Member Support and Development which is to be presented at the meeting by Mr.Steve Thomas, Chief Executive of the WLGA.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To note the Council's success in achieving the Good Practice and Innovation Award for Member Support and Development.

3. BACKGROUND

A Wales Charter for Member Support and Development

3.1 In 2005, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) established a Wales Charter for Member Support and Development, which was introduced to develop, recognise and share good practice in the support and development of elected Members, provided by their authorities.

3.2 There are three areas of achievement:

- The Charter
- The Advanced Charter
- The Good Practice and Innovation Award for Member Support and Development (previously the Excellence Award)

The award at the first two levels lapses after a period of three years and at this point, the Authority can re-apply for their current level award or for the next level.

- 3.3 In 2007, the Authority, along with The Vale of Glamorgan and Caerphilly County Borough Councils were the first in successfully attaining the first level of achievement – the Charter and in 2010, the Council achieved the Advanced Charter being the only local authority in Wales to receive such a prestigious award to date.
- 3.4 In April of this year, the authority applied for ‘The Good Practice and Innovation Award for Member Support and Development’, the submission to the WLGA sought to highlight the excellent and innovative practices that Rhondda Cynon Taf’s Occupational Health and Wellbeing Unit have undertaken with regard to elected Member support and it was evidenced that this ongoing practice was over and above that required for the Advanced level of the Charter.
- 3.5 The Council has always endeavoured that elected Members are able to access the same services and support as its employees and this was reinforced during the Induction programme following the elections in 2012, where all Members were surveyed to ascertain what they wanted to see from the Occupational Health and Wellbeing Unit and whether there were any specific interventions that they would like to see included in the services available to them.
- 3.6 Since 2012, Members have been consulted on a regular basis via a range of methods, for example, through the provision or presentations followed by Q&A and surveys to ensure that the services that are provided, better meet Members needs in their roles.
- 3.7 As Members are aware, in addition to tests such as blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol (MOT), the Unit also undertake the following tests to spot early signs of ill health:
- Audiology (hearing test)
 - Spirometry (lung function test)
 - HAV’s (Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome/White Finger)
 - Dermal Measurement (Skin Hydration)
 - Flu vaccinations
- 3.8 Paragraphs 3.4 – 3.7 above, is a brief outline of the submission that was made to the WLGA, and which demonstrated improved outcomes for Members. In addition to the ongoing information, consultation and targeted interventions that Members have benefitted from which in turn has allowed Officers to work with increasing focus towards meeting the priorities under the Single Integrated Plan (SIP).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 As mentioned earlier, Rhondda Cynon Taf is the only local authority in Wales to have achieved the Advanced Charter for Member Support and Development and it is hoped that this will be sustained during the coming years through Members and Officers commitment of working together to

improve corporate governance, local democracy and local services, which will assist in the continued development for Members and which will be complimented through the continued monitoring by the Democratic Services Committee.

- 4.2 It is also worthy of noting that the Authority is the only Council in Wales to achieve all three levels.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

REPORT

The Good Practice and Innovation Award for Member
Support and Development

OFFICER TO CONTACT

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