# **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER**

## SUBJECT: WALES CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

## Purpose of report

To update Members of progress made on the Advanced Charter criteria.

## Background

At the Authority meeting on 05 September 2018, Members reconfirmed their commitment to Member support and development and to aspire to attaining the Advanced Level of the Welsh Local Government Association's Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. The Administration and Democratic Services Manager, together with Mrs Julie James, Chair of the Member Support and Development Committee, reviewed the Advanced Charter criteria and concluded that, while the Authority complied with most of what was required, there were certain criteria that needed to be reviewed to ensure they were still fit for purpose.

As a result, the following documents were reviewed:

- (a) Member role descriptions and person specifications (adopted by the Authority on 25 July 2019);
- (b) Member development strategy (adopted by the Authority on 25 July 2019), and
- (c) Personal development review framework and guidance, which is being considered by the Authority on 06 May 2020.

The revised criteria checklist is appended to this report for information.

#### **Risk considerations**

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 places increased requirements on all local authorities in Wales in relation to corporate governance and Member support and development. By putting in place processes to ensure that the Authority can attain – and retain – Charter status, we ensure that the Authority continues to have informed Members who can make decisions based on understanding, skills and experience.

#### **Compliance**

The Authority has developed a strong ethos of Member development, which has been endorsed by the award of the Charter Level in 2010 and again in 2014. A submission for the Advanced Charter will build on the good work carried out to date and re-emphasise the fact that the Authority works to a high standard of governance.

## **Financial considerations**

The financial resources for training events will be met from the Democratic Services budget heading.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Members note the attached criteria document and determine what additional steps need to be taken to make a submission to the Welsh Local Government Association for Advanced Charter status.

#### Background papers:

The Wales Charter for Member Support and Development: the new criteria and assessment process 2012 – National Park Authorities

(For further information, please contact Janet Evans, Administration and Democratic Services Manager, on extension 4834, or by emailing janete@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

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Criterion	Charter Requirement	Charter Expansion and Clarification	Advanced Charter Requirements	Description of authority approach and actions	Additional work required to achieve this criterion
A. Member Roles and	Responsibilities				
1. Members are	Role descriptions are	What does adopted	Role descriptions are	Draft suite of role	
supported with role	adopted for the:	mean?	available for all	descriptions (RD)	
descriptions.	Chair of the	Role descriptions exist	Members covering all	agreed by Member	
	Authority	and have been	aspects of their role.	Support and	
	Vice Chair of the	formally adopted for		Development	
	Authority	all the roles listed.	Members are	Committee (MSDC) on	
	Committee Chairs		undertaking the	08 May 2019 and	
	Member of the	There is no need at	responsibilities	adopted by National	
	Authority	this level for Members	described in the role	Park Authority (NPA)	
	Chair of the	to evidence that they	descriptions.	on 25 July 2019	
	Standards	perform the roles		following Members'	
	Committee	outlined in the	Role descriptions	suggested additions.	
	Chair of the	descriptions but they	inform the PDR		
	Planning	should understand	process. Every	Each RD outlines all	
	Committee	what their role is and	Member has a role	aspects of that	
	Member of the	what is expected of	description which	Member's role.	
	Standards	them.	matches what they do.		
	Committee		Including guidance for	Role description and	
	Member of the	What can be defined	Members of a working	protocol for Members	
	Planning	as a role description?	or task and finish	serving on outside	
	Committee		group – not a role	bodies included in this	
	Chairs of the	See	description as such	suite.	
	Performance and	the WLGA model	but some information		
	Scrutiny	role descriptions	to help Members	Planning Code of Good	
	committees as	for Welsh	understand what is	Practice adopted,	
	applicable	Authorities, and	expected of them.	which sits alongside	

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	<ul> <li>Member of the Performance and Scrutiny committees as applicable</li> <li>Member Champion</li> <li>Guidance is provided to Members on their role on outside bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the WLGA document <i>The</i> <i>Role of Councillors</i> <i>in Collaboration</i></li> <li>Outside Bodies</li> <li>Where Members are responsible for formally representing the Authority or making decisions that could impact on the Authority or have legal obligations as – for example, trustees of an organisation, they should be provided with a role description. In all instances Members should be provided with guidance on their role on the outside body. Officers should secure (where available) terms of reference from outside bodies.</li> </ul>	All Members need to be undertaking their roles in accordance with their role descriptions evidenced by having individually developed and/or agreed their RD.	the Members' Code of Conduct, provides a guide to Members on their role as Development Management Committee Members. When Working/Task and Finish Groups have been established in the past to look at specific areas, Terms of Reference have been agreed at the outset in order that Members understand what their role on the Group is and what needs to be achieved.	

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2. Members are supported in undertaking their duties according to high standards of conduct.	All members are provided with training and development in the detail of the Authority's Code of Conduct, taking into account any changes in the model or local code as they emerge.	What can be interpreted as training and development? Any activities which help members understand what the code is and how they need to work within it. This could include written guidance, induction sessions, workshops, Q&A sessions.	Training is updated and delivered regularly. Potential breaches are addressed internally, as set out in the Ombudsman's report concerning local resolution. There are few justifiable referrals to the Ombudsman because members do not understand the code.	No Code of Conduct refresher training session was undertaken in 2018 due to change in Monitoring Officer and subsequent sickness of that officer. New MO appointed in October 2019 and brief session for newly appointed Welsh Government Members held on 04 December 2019, although all Members were invited to attend. Code of Conduct training session held on 29 January 2020 for all Members. This will continue to be an annual event. Any presentations and/or materials given at a training session	Local resolution protocol to be reviewed.

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				are made available to those Members who were unable to attend. Should further information be needed, Members are aware that they can contact the officer responsible for delivering the session.	
				Members are aware of their duties / responsibilities and some have applied to the Standards Committee for dispensation to speak at NPA/Committee on certain matters. Members concerned have the opportunity to address the Standards Committee if they so wish.	
				Local resolution protocol adopted in 2013 to deal with	

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				Member against Member complaints, although it has never been needed to date.	
3. The Authority's Scheme of Delegation supports strong corporate governance by clearly defining the role of the different member functions and their interrelationship.	All members have received training on and understand the Scheme of Delegation It clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of committees and individual members and officers.	Training has been made available to all members and take up of this has been high.	The Scheme of Delegation changes in line with requirements.	This is covered in the main during induction.	Need to develop a session for <b>all</b> Members on an annual basis. Monitoring Officer (Chief Executive?) to deliver session
B. Member Development					
B1. A member learning and development strategy has been adopted.	A member development strategy is in place. The strategy sets out the approach that the authority takes to member development. It includes: • a commitment to		All aspects of the strategy are in place and functioning effectively, with an effective methodology for monitoring and reviewing the strategy over time.	Member Development Strategy reviewed as PDR process wasn't working. Revised Member Development Strategy agreed by MSDC on 08 May 2019 and adopted by NPA on 25 July 2019.	

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	<ul> <li>and methodology for undertaking development needs analyses through a PDR and or TNA scheme, which identifies the local and national, collective and individual development needs of all members.</li> <li>a commitment to and methodology for developing members according to the needs of the organisation.</li> <li>a commitment to and methodology for creating personal development <u>plans</u> for all members.</li> <li>a methodology for responding to the</li> </ul>			PDR guidance agreed by MSDC on 06 November 2019, with positive support and feedback given. PDR guidance document training delivered by WLGA on 05 February 2020 in preparation for new PDR process. Process rolled out to Members on 27 February 2020. As a result of COVID-19 government advice regarding no face-to- face meetings, Members encouraged to use Lifesize video conferencing system to complete PDRs.	

development needs of members identified in their personal support and development				
reviews or TNAs.				
rsonal support and velopment reviews iich are: based on role descriptions contribute to personal development plans conducted by senior members or other deemed suitably qualified <u>made available</u> for all members and <u>must</u> be undertaken by members in receipt of a senior salary.	What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified person their own requirements for training and development. This <b>should</b> include some examination of current duties as set out in the role descriptions listed above and <b>may</b> include some self or supported reflection on current performance as a	The majority of members undertake PDRs annually according to the requirements set out in the first level. The PDR provides opportunities for members to identify the level at which development is required. The outcomes effectively and regularly inform the member development strategy and programme. Members report that	In recent years, Members have been asked to self-assess their skills and to identify any development needs. A training needs analysis and training plan was agreed by the former Member Development Strategy Working Group (MDSWG) on 05 September 2018. Chair of Authority undertook an appraisal with Deputy Director of Land, Nature and Forestry prior to re-	
	and development reviews or TNAs.	and development reviews or TNAs.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified person their own requirements for training and development plans conducted by senior members or other deemed suitably qualified made available for all members and must be undertaken by members in receipt of a senior salary.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified person their own requirements for training and development.This should include some examination of current duties as set out in the role descriptions listed above and may include some self or supported reflection	and development reviews or TNAs.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified personal development plans conducted by senior members or other deemed suitably qualified made available for all members in receipt of a senior salary.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified person their own requirements for training and development.The majority of members or opportunity for a member or other suitably qualified person their own requirements for training and development.The should include some examination of current duties as set out in the role descriptions listed above and may include some self or supported reflection on current performance as aThe majority of members and members in embers in members in members in requirements and must be pundertaken by members in receipt of a senior salary.Members in member and may include some self or supported reflection on current performance as aMembers report that	and development reviews or TNAs.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other obsect on role descriptions contribute to bersonal development plans conducted by senior members or other deemed suitably qualified made available for all members in dimust be undertaken by members in receipt of a senior salary.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member to discuss with any senior member or other suitably qualified members or their own person their own other deemed suitably qualified made available for all members in receipt of a senior salary.What is a PDR? An opportunity for a member or other member or other person their own person their own pother deemed suitably qualified made available for all members in receipt of a senior salary.The majority of member available for all members and member developmentIn recent years, Members to discuss members to tother out in the role descriptions listed aslary.and must be performance as aThis should include descriptions listed no current performance as aThe outcomes training and member sine regularly inform the member development strategy and programme.A training needs analysis and training plan was agreed by the former Member Development strategy Working Group (MDSWG) on 05 September 2018.

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		outcomes of the discussion <b>should</b> feed into a personal development plan held by the member with the required development activities and also be recorded by the authority so that development activities can be arranged to support every member's needs. The WLGA document 'Guidance for Authorities Planning to Implement Personal Development Reviews for Members' provides guidance in this area. <u>Anyone</u> conducting reviews should have received training in their purpose and methodology.	and that their needs are, where possible, being met in terms of content and level.	PDR guidance agreed by MSDC on 06 November 2019, with positive support and feedback given. PDR guidance document training delivered by WLGA on 05 February 2020 in preparation for new PDR process. Following WLGA training session on PDRs delivered on 05 February 2020, process rolled out to Members on 27 February 2020. As a result of COVID- 19 government advice regarding no face-to- face meetings, Members encouraged to use Lifesize video conferencing system to complete PDRs.	

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				In addition, three Members (currently Chair and Deputy Chair of NPA and Chair of MSDC) undertake the Chief Executive's performance review. Two reviews take place; one to set objectives for the following financial year and the other to review performance against the targets set.	
B3. A development	An annual	There is an annual	The development	A variety of training	Pre-identified training
programme for	development	programme of events	programme is updated	opportunities is	opportunities to be
members is in place	programme informed	and learning	every year following	provided for all	included in the
with a mechanism for its annual	by the member development strategy	opportunities for members both	monitoring and evaluation of the	Members and they are advised of these in	calendar of meetings
review.	is in place	collectively and	previous year and is	advance. However,	
		individually. This	demonstrably in line	not all opportunities	
All members are	The annual	programme is	with member needs	are set out in an	
made aware of,	development	informed by the	and the MD strategy.	annual development	
guided to and are	programme is	organisational		programme, as some	
able to access the	planned and	priorities set out in the	The content of the	training opportunities	
development	publicised in	strategy and in any	programme is made	arise that have not	
activities equally.	advance.	requirements	available to suit the	previously been	
	Members are	identified in the	needs of members	identified by Members,	

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	made aware of development opportunities provided in response to their needs. The timings and settings of activities are varied to enable equal access by all, including those members who are working, are carers or have child care responsibilities.	personal development plans which emerge from PDRs and TNAs. The programme should be developed by relevant officers and members for example the MDWG/ MD Champion, DS/HR officers and directors/service heads. The programme includes 'specialist' areas of development reflecting the needs of members in developing skills and understanding in both corporate governance and thematic or service areas. The programme is provided to members giving sufficient notice for attendance.	with different skills and experience. i.e. there is some <u>levelling</u> to development activities.	<ul> <li>e.g.</li> <li>a Workshop on enforcement was arranged following questions raised by Members at a meeting of the Development Management Committee;</li> <li>a Workshop on Nitrate Vulnerable Zones was arranged following a Welsh Government consultation on the topic, to better inform Members of the subject prior to a response being made, and</li> <li>opportunities arise on occasion for joint Member/Officer Workshops, particularly when the NPA hosts Planning Officer for</li> </ul>	

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		Members are notified of specific events in which they have expressed an interest. The programme is designed to offer choice or variety of opportunities to attend.		Wales training session, e.g. lighting seminar and value of planning seminar. A Dark Skies seminar was arranged on 11 September 2018 where all Community Councils were invited to attend along with Members. A training needs analysis and training plan was agreed by the MDSWG on 05 September 2018. This will be supplemented / superseded following the 2020 round of PDRs.	
B4. Prospective and new members are informed of their role and responsibilities.	<ul> <li>Prospective members are informed of the role they will be expected to perform.</li> </ul>	Information about the role and the expectations and commitment placed on members whilst on the Authority is provided to constituent	<b>Every</b> member moving to a new role has received an induction for that role for example Chair, Vice Chair and Champions	A document "Information for prospective Members 2017" was distributed to all County Councillors following the local government	Information document can be revised and updated in preparation for next local government elections

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	<ul> <li>All new or returning members are provided with a programme of induction.</li> </ul>	authorities. What constitutes an induction programme? This will vary between authorities but should at the base level be any activity that introduces new members to their roles and the work of the National Park Authority. Use is made of the national induction materials provided by the WLGA.		<ul> <li>elections in 2017.</li> <li>Induction training provided for all new Members and also offered to returning Members.</li> <li>Chairs' training held on 15 January 2018 with Brecon Beacons NPA and a new Chairs' training session held jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council on 03 March 2020.</li> <li>Overview of Social media given by Monitoring Officer on 6 December 2019 and follow up session held on 29 January 2020.</li> <li>All new Members are encouraged to attend a National Parks UK induction programme.</li> </ul>	in 2022

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				Three Members attended the New Forest session in September 2018 and three attended the Brecon Beacons session in March 2019.	
B5. Development activities are relevant and of high quality.	Learning activities are provided in appropriate styles and settings based on the learning needs and styles of individuals and committees. The authority has a systematic and effective approach to commissioning, developing, providing and evaluating its training and development activities. This could include internal, external and collaborative arrangements.	What are appropriate styles and settings? A mix of, for example, formal/informal group/individual, interactive/passive working environment/away day. The authority would need to demonstrate an effective selection process for commissioning training. This might include working with the WLGA and should include working collaboratively where appropriate with other	Training and development is provided to a consistently high standard, commissioning and evaluation is effective and systematic. The authority works regularly with other authorities to pool experiences and consider the sharing or coordination of joint programmes.	Joint training held regularly, e.g. Chairs' training with Brecon, also relevant planning matters jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council Joint Member/officer training sessions held regularly, e.g. Lighting seminar; Value of planning; Budget; LDP workshops; Brexit; Data protection/GDPR; ICT; National Park Management Plan	Better evaluation of training needed Madeleine/Rachel to provide some commentary about their shadowing days Any external trainers would be taken from WLGA list if possible

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		authorities to share intelligence or undertake joint procurement. Internal training, (rather than briefing) should be designed and provided with the support of training/OD professionals in addition to member support or policy/service officers.		Members are encouraged to shadow officers where appropriate in order to learn more about the work of the Authority on the ground.	
B6. There is a clear responsibility for leading the programme, driving the strategy and monitoring the outcomes.	The Authority has clearly defined the arrangements for developing, implementing and monitoring its strategy for member support and development. Individual members and officers have clear roles in leading and championing this area.	A member support and development "champion" and member development working group made up of members and officers is in place to sponsor the strategy and monitor the programme.	These arrangements are mature and effective in representing the views of all members and the needs of the organisation in sponsoring and developing the strategy and monitoring the training programme and outcomes. Attendance,	MDSWG established in 2008. Member Support and Development Committee established in January 2019 to demonstrate a higher profile and emphasis on Member development and to support the Advanced Charter application. New Committee has revived the Member development process	The Chair and Deputy Chair of the MSDC act in the Champion capacity Forward calendar of meetings agreed by NPA Attendance levels to be monitored quarterly by the MSDC

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			satisfaction and outcomes for members are monitored and low levels of attendance addressed.	and the approach has been completely revitalised as a result.Member attendance presented quarterly to Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee and Operational Review Committee.Attendance figures in 2018/19 and 2019/20 showed:Meetings (target 75%): 2018/19: 75.5% 2019/20: 79.8%Training (target 65%): 2018/19: 66% 2019/20: 56.5%Some Members have been unable to attend training sessions due to personal circumstances and Chair of MSDC has emailed them to	

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				ensure that all is well. Regular meetings held between Chair of MSDC and Democratic Services Manager to discuss Member development issues.	
B7. Resources are identified and provided for member development.	Dedicated resources are identified and provided for member development activities.	How dedicated is dedicated? Resources are specifically put aside and used for member development. The development activity can be very widely interpreted but should not be the usual business of the Authority. It could include traditional briefing, workshops or seminars, handbooks, e-learning, induction activities. Resources should also include staff time, shared where possible	Resources, whether people or money, are allocated according to the priorities in the strategy arising from organisational needs or those expressed by members in their PDRs and TNAs. Consideration has been given to sharing resources between authorities and (where a clear benefit exists) collaborative arrangements have been made.	Any expenditure on Member development is taken from various budget streams – there is no 'dedicated' budget heading. Joint training sessions with Pembrokeshire County Council have been undertaken wherever possible, e.g. Chairs' training on 03 May 2020.	

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B8. Members are offered the opportunity to be mentored by member peers.	The authority is exploring the needs of members to be mentored. Any member who has requested a mentor is provided with one. Mentors are trained in mentoring skills.	between authorities. The authority is speaking to members about the concept and benefits of mentoring to gauge interest. Mentoring might include member to member or working with member or officer "buddies". The authority should be exploring the need to provide Leadership	The authority has a mentoring strategy to support the needs of members who have requested mentors.	Draft Buddying Scheme agreed by MSDC on 31 July 2019. Scheme being trialled by newly appointed Welsh Government Members (3) and current WG Members. Chair has undertaken 1:1 with her Buddy and longer established WG Members held a session with newer	
		mentoring for the Chair if requested.		Members on 6 December 2019 to discuss progress and exchange ideas. Evaluation form drafted in order to learn from pilot scheme, with a view to rolling out to all new Members in future.	

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C. Member Support					
C1. Officer support is provided for all the member functions.	Every member, committee, panel, forum etc. has officer support provided. The nature of the support has been clearly articulated to members	Officer support should be provided for every authority meeting and committee.	Members are satisfied with the level of support provided.	Officer support already provided. Members regularly ask for assistance with minor matters. Member workshop held in June 2018 to gauge whether or not Members needed any further support.	Need to detail when it happened and how many Members attended.
C2. Arrangements made for the business of the Authority are flexible and enable members to participate fully regardless of personal circumstances	A review of the arrangements for authority business has taken place and as a result, meeting times, arrangements and venues reflect the needs of members as closely as possible.	Authorities should undertake a review at least once every term, preferably shortly after the new Authority is established which at least measures whether daytime or evenings are preferred and if particular times cause problems for individual members. Individual committees should be able to define what is	The authority can demonstrate that it knows the requirements of its current members and has met them, i.e. meetings are arranged to suit the convenience of the majority of members expected to attend the meeting. Special arrangements are made for those members who have	Member survey undertaken in 2013. Member workshop held in June 2018 to gauge whether or not Members needed any further support. Wheelchair accessible minibus has been hired in the past for site inspections and study tour day. Wheelchair accessible minibus now	Need to undertake a further (annual?) review of arrangements for Authority meeting times, etc

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		convenient for members of that committee. What should be demonstrated is an awareness of the restrictions placed on members by holding meetings at certain times and some evidence of flexibility in meeting arrangements as a result.	special access requirements.	on Authority fleet and a number of officers have been specifically trained to drive it. Review of Committees undertaken. Joint Scrutiny Committee with Snowdonia NPA held in 2015 when video conferencing and simultaneous translation facilities were used to facilitate matters.	
C3. Personal support for members	Members are provided with access to guidance on their rights and benefits as members.	Members are provided with general advice on what might be described as 'employment' rights and benefits relating to their role as Members. This includes member salaries, family absence, allowances,	Members report that this information and advice is adequate.	Members are informed of their benefits at induction. Code of Conduct training has been provided annually. Travel claims are sent electronically to each Member every month	Details to be reviewed/updated for forthcoming intake of new Members

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		tax and benefits.		for confirmation and/or amendment. Data Protection and GDPR Workshop presented to Members on 23 October 2019	
D. Member Facilities					
D1. All members are provided with adequate access to ICT.	<ul> <li>Members have access to the equipment, or connectivity required to undertake their role.</li> <li>Basic training is provided in its use and IT support is available.</li> <li>Members are supported in remote working through the use of remote access</li> </ul>	Members are provided with equipment for their individual use to undertake Authority business. They are shown how to use the equipment and software. They are able to have assistance if they are experiencing problems with using the equipment or it is faulty. Members are advised	Members are routinely using the provisions required for level one and report that this is sufficient.	IT support is available on request and one Member has been provided with a tablet to enable them to undertake their role. All Members are offered electronic papers, although some still prefer hard copy. There is a good internet connection in the Meeting Room for those who receive electronic agendas.	

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	codes and Skype etc. as required. Members are able to communicate with the Authority and the public electronically.	on the use of mobile communications and digital and social media and have access to relevant social media sites, discussion fora and communities of practice such as is required to undertake their role on the Authority. All Authority agendas and meeting papers are provided electronically.		<ul> <li>Most Members use their own equipment although support is available should</li> <li>Members need to purchase new equipment.</li> <li>Telephone conferencing and Skype facilities are available to Members on request. One Member used teleconference facility to join Personnel Committee from France in the past.</li> <li>All Members have an official email address, which forwards emails to their home address on request. Some access their email via Outlook Web Access.</li> <li>One Member trained on WebRecruit – HR</li> </ul>	

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				application process. Demonstration given on Planning Portal. All Members given training on use of Lifesize video conferencing package in advance of convening virtual meetings of the Authority and its Committees.	
D2. Information resources are provided	A central collection of information dedicated to member needs is provided as part of the information and research support available to members.	An up to date and regularly revised collection of information resources is available specifically for members. This contains agendas, minutes, training opportunities, links to web resources and access to performance data. Members are informed	Members routinely use the provisions required for level one and report that this is sufficient. Good practice might include an interactive portal dedicated to members.	Members' Handbook supplied on CD when they join the Authority. Performance data reported quarterly to Members via Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee and Operational Review Committee. RAG (Red, Amber, Green) system used in reporting performance, with dialogue given on any	Need to progress Parcnet (intranet) portal for Members and provide training on use

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		about the information that is available.		variations.	
D3. Facilities for members to work in the Authority are available.	<ul> <li>Member needs have been reviewed and where required the following are provided:</li> <li>Private rooms for meetings.</li> <li>Offices for senior office holders.</li> </ul>	The needs of members must have been assessed. Rooms must be available but not necessarily permanently dedicated.	Members report that facilities are sufficient and that their needs are regularly reviewed.	Member workshop held in June 2018 to gauge whether or not Members needed any further support. Yellow Room designated as Members' Room on meeting days. Private rooms can be set aside on request and have been used for teleconferences, Skype meetings and buddying sessions.	Review to be arranged in 2020