

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

North West Charter Celebration event

18th September 2008

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine Council attendance at the Celebration event for the North West Member Development Charter and to consider the format of a presentation to be given at the event.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To determine whether the City Council should attend the Celebration event for the North West Charter, should the Council's application be successful and, if so, how many Members and/or Officers should attend.**
- (2) Subject to (1) above, to consider the format of a presentation to be given at the Celebration event.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council Business Committee has for some time now been responsible for member development and has been working towards the North West Employers Organisation's Charter (NWEO) for Member Development. The Council was assessed against this Charter on 8th May 2008 and our application has now been put forward to be considered by the NWEO Committee. It is anticipated that the NWEO will notify the Council of the decision on 8th October 2008.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 NWEO host an annual Charter Celebration event and this is scheduled to take place on Friday 21st November at the Lowry, Salford Quays, Manchester. At the event, Members of all successful authorities present are asked to give a short presentation upon member development. Some of the presentations by Members in the past have been quite light hearted and have been based on popular TV and quiz shows with a member training and development theme.

2.2 This authority has provisionally been allocated a table of up to 10 places at the Celebration event, depending on the outcome of the decision. Places are £75 each. Members are asked to determine how many Members and Officers should attend the Celebration event and how attendance should be funded. The Members who attend this Celebration event will be expected to collect the award on behalf of the Council and take part in the presentation.

2.3 In addition, some authorities have in the past provided promotional gifts of their local area i.e. key rings, pens, biscuits, etc., free of charge.

3.0 Options

3.1 Option 1 – That the Council attend the event to collect the award and take up all 10 provisionally allocated places.

3.2 Option 2 - That the Council attend the event to collect the award but be represented by a lesser number of Councillors and officers.

3.3 Option 3 – that the Council do not attend the award ceremony.

3.4 Options 1 and 2 are subject to the Council being successful in its application to gain Charter status. Should the application be unsuccessful it is not anticipated that there would be a need to attend the ceremony.

3.5 If Members determine that the Council should attend the ceremony (options 1 or 2 above), the Committee will need also to consider:

- The format of the presentation at the event
- Any potential promotional gifts and associated costs

4.0 Officer Preferred Option

4.1 There is no officer preferred option.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The work of Member development supports the corporate priority – to continue to improve the Council.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no direct implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of a place at the Celebration event is £75. Maximum cost, if all 10 provisionally allocated places are taken up is therefore £750. In addition there will also be the cost of any donation and promotional gifts unless local sponsorship can be gained towards the cost of promotional gifts.

No budget has been allocated for this activity and all costs would have to be met from the Member training and development budget. For 2008/09 the budget for Member training and development has been set at £14,400, of which £7054 has been committed to date. The training programme can be tailored to meet the available budget – it is for Members to determine whether this is an acceptable use of this budget and an appropriate level of expenditure.

There will also be the cost of travel to the event in Manchester. This can be contained within Member and/or officer travel budgets.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal have been consulted and have no further comments to make.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact Officer: Suzanne Smith

Telephone: 01524 582074

E-mail: smsmith@lancaster.gov.uk

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