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| **Charter values**  |
| * Member development is an important tool for councils, members and officers to deliver what our communities need.
* Inspiring local communities and improving wellbeing for the people and places we represent takes ambitious leadership.
* Effective political leadership is at the heart of healthy democracy.
* Councillors who are well equipped and supported, resilient in times of challenge or disruption, and confident to make a difference, deliver and be trusted.
 | * Emphasis on a local approach to a national framework.
* Based on the principles of sector-led improvement, whereby councils:
	+ are responsible for their own performance
	+ are accountable locally, not nationally
	+ have a sense of collective responsibility for the performance of the sector as a whole
	+ access support and tools from the LGA and regional organisations
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| **Benefits of charter accreditation** |
| The process for councils | Benefits and impact for councillors |
| * The framework gives concise and clear guidance on how to achieve the charter without being too onerous or overly bureaucratic.
* Focuses positively and supportively on what councils already have in place
* Helps councils decide what to prioritise and improve
* Councillor development needs are better understood and supported
* Helps set aside time to reflect and celebrate the good practice already happening
* Demonstrates the value placed on councillors carrying out their important and complex role
 | * The quality of councillor development is improved
* New councillors are better prepared for their roles and responsibilities
* Councillor progression is better enabled
* Helps ensure councillors are operating at their most knowledgeable, skilled and effective
* Increases councillors’ competence and confidence.
* Helps councillors navigate the ever more complex and demanding role as well as the local government landscape
* Motivation, reflection and self-care for councillors through development and growth
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| Wider benefits |  |
| * Strengthens member-officer relationships
* Helps ensure effective top team political and managerial leadership
* Encourages robust and accountable decision making
* Fosters a culture of learning and support within the council and with partners
* Helps improve councillor diversity
* Helps ensure proactive succession planning
* Enhances democracy and participation
* Strengthens relationships with residents
* Improves outcomes for communities
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| **Additional benefits of Charter Plus accreditation** |
| * Highest level of commitment and a holistic approach means the benefits filter more widely
* Case studies highlight successes and encourages more councillors to participate
* Evaluation ensures high quality learning and development is delivered to councillors.
* Learning and development for councillors supports the council’s objectives
* Councillors have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities
* Successful and impactful PDPs for councillors
* Deeper intel of the impact of learning and development
 | * Helps prioritise horizon-scan and deliver the ‘next level’ of member development
* Strengthened place-based focus by sharing development opportunities and promoting the role of the councillor to other organisations in the local area
* Effective succession planning and candidate recruitment activities
* Evaluation draws out the impacts on the community through feedback from local partners
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| **Resource commitment** |
| * The accreditation process differs across the regions to account for local variations
* The framework gives concise and clear guidance on how to achieve the charter without being too onerous or overly bureaucratic
* Focuses positively and flexibly on what councils already have in place - a local approach to a national framework
* Examples of evidence are clearly detailed in the framework
* Many councils are already doing this work - the charter is a chance for this to be recognised
* Contact your regional employer organisation or the LGA (virginia.ponton@local.gov.uk) for more information on
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