

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No. 11

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>26 February 2008</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Supporting Councillors: A Manifesto for Councils</b>
Link to Corporate Priorities	Customer Focus
Public Report	Yes

### Summary of Report

The report sets out a manifesto for councils which has been published by the Local Government Information Unit. Members are asked to consider whether the Council should sign up to the manifesto.

### Officer Recommendations

**To agree that North Wiltshire District Council should support and sign up to the Manifesto for Councils which is attached as an Appendix to this report.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider whether North Wiltshire District Council should support and sign up to the manifesto for councils which is attached as an appendix to this report.

## **2. Options**

- 2.1 The Council could decide not to sign up to the manifesto.

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 The attached document, Supporting Councillors: A Manifesto for Councils has been published by the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU) and was launched on 25 January 2008.
- 3.2 The LGiU is asking all Councils in England to support and act on 12 practical actions that have been proposed to help make a difference to existing and future Councillors. Authorities are being asked to sign up to the manifesto by the end of March.
- 3.3 The manifesto builds on work that the LGiU has campaigned on for a number of years on issues around supporting councillors, including recognition for the changing role, the need to support councillors better, and the need to attract more people into the role.
- 3.4 The manifesto has been launched following the report of the Councillors Commission which considered the role of Councillors and their support and made 61 recommendations.
- 3.5 By signing up to the actions it is suggested that Councils will have:
- Ensured government listens and acts on the problems facing local councillors.
  - Helped explain what a councillor does and why they are important.
  - Helped councillors to represent their local constituents.
  - Strengthened democracy and encouraged an excellent range of local candidates.
- 3.6 The LGiU will list on its website all those authorities that have signed up.

## **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 Most of the 12 actions in the manifesto are things that Councils can do now without the need for legislative change.

## **5. Community, Environmental and Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 The actions set out in the manifesto aim to assist members in carrying out their community leadership role and also to encourage a wider range of people to become councillors.

## **6. Financial and Human Resources Implications**

- 6.1 Any actions or expenditure arising from the manifesto would have to be met from within existing resources.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Supporting Councillors: A Manifesto for Councils</b></li></ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<b>LGiU Briefing Paper PB 1737/08L</b>

**Previous Decisions Connected with this Report: None**