

COUNCIL

Member Champions - Role and Remit

17 July 2013

Referral from Council Business Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve formal arrangements for Council appointed Champions for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the attached documents be added to the Council's Constitution as Section 5 of Part 6 (Appointments and Designations - Member Champions).
- (2) That Council confirms that the appointment of Member Champions be made at each Annual Council meeting and that this item be included in the business for Annual Council shown in Council procedure rule 1.1 (Part 4, Section 1 of the Constitution).
- (3) That Council approves a generic role definition for Member Champions (as attached at Appendix 2) and confirms that Member Champion appointments be open to non-Cabinet Members only.
- (4) To note that Council Business Committee has requested that the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) consider amending the Members' Allowances Scheme to permit reasonable travel and subsistence claims to be made to Member Champions in carrying out their roles.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council currently has three Member Champions representing

- Older People
- Children and Young People
- Veterans.

2.0 Formalising the role

2.1 The three roles have arisen either from recommendations from overview and

scrutiny or from motions to Council over the course of the last eighteen months and, because they have not originated in the same way, there has been no formal role or remit adopted. This has led to a lack of consistency, with one of the roles only open to non-Cabinet Members only, whilst two of the roles are open to all Councillors.

- 2.2 On 27 June, Council Business Committee considered a protocol and model role definition for the working arrangements of Member Champions for possible inclusion in the Council's Constitution. Both documents were adapted from the North West Member Champions' *Guidance and Advice* and are appended to this report.
- 2.3 The protocol (Appendix 1) sets out a framework within which Member Champions might work effectively. The model role definition sets out the requirements of the role. Taken together, these documents will ensure that Champions, other Members, officers and community interests understand the role, its parameters and where the Champion fits into the Council's structure and leadership arrangements. The Committee recommends the protocol and role definition to Council for inclusion in the Constitution.
- 2.4 The appointment of Champions has been dealt with every year at the Annual Council meeting and Council is also asked to formalise those arrangements in the Constitution.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 The formal designation of Member Champions will offer a number of benefits to the Council. It will assist the Council in meeting a wide range of policy targets and objectives and facilitate proper consideration of the championed issue in various Council meetings and other activities. It will improve relations with external stakeholder groups and provide a two way link with supporting organisations and the wider community. Council is therefore asked to approve the attached documents for inclusion in the Constitution.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

The Council's Member Champions work effectively to promote social inclusion and equalities for Older People, Children and Young People and Veterans.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no legal obligation to appoint Member Champions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Travelling expenses paid to Member Champions in pursuit of their role are not currently an approved duty and payment has been at the discretion of the Head of Governance. Council Business Committee has requested that the matter be referred to the IRP to consider formalising this as an approved duty which will have some cost implications, but it is expected this can be contained within existing budgets.

Any additional Member development requirements required to support Members in carrying out the role of Champions will need to be accommodated within the Member Development Budget and support to the Champions will be provided within existing staffing levels in

Democratic Services.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources: None.

Information Services: None.

Property: None.

Open Spaces: None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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