

Champion for Older People

13 April 2016

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To note that special responsibility for Older People is now included in a Cabinet portfolio and to consider the role of non-executive Champion for Older People.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the role of non-executive Member Champion for Older People be held vacant whilst special responsibility for Older People is included in a Cabinet portfolio.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 On 17 July 2014, Council formalised the arrangements for Member Champions in Part 6 of the Constitution as a non-executive role. Over the years, the Council has created Champion roles for four three distinct areas: Older People; Children and Young People, Veterans and Disabled People. Councillors Cozler and Guiding are both Champions for Disabled People; Councillor Scott is the Veteran's Champion and Councillor Brown is the Champion for Children and Young People. All the appointments were for four years until the next elections in 2019.

1.2 Councillor Whitehead was appointed Champion for Older People when she was a non-executive Member, however her appointment to Cabinet in March means that the role is currently vacant.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 A Champion is a non-executive councillor appointed by Council to provide a focus on a specific area of the Council's business or where a community group needs to ensure it is given due regard in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners in local governance.

2.2 After Councillor Whitehead was appointed Champion for Older People in May 2015, Cabinet Portfolios were reported to Council, with Councillor Pattison taking on special responsibility for Older People in her portfolio area. Now that a Cabinet Member has taken on this area and the profile is raised, a non-executive Member Champion would

appear to be duplication. It should be noted that each Cabinet Member is also 'shadowed' by an Overview and Scrutiny Cabinet Liaison Member, and that the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny is the Liaison Member for Councillor Pattison's portfolio.

3.0 Options

3.1 There are a number of options open to Council and three are outlined below:

	Option 1: To disestablish the role of Champion for Older People	Option 2: To appoint to the role of Champion for Older People	Option 3: To hold the role of Champion for Older People vacant whilst special responsibility for Older People is included in a Cabinet portfolio.
Advantages	Avoids duplication of a Cabinet portfolio. Limited officer resources will be spread between four members instead of five.	None identified – the Cabinet Member provides the focus on this area of Council business and is 'shadowed' by a non-executive Overview and Scrutiny Cabinet Liaison Member.	Avoids duplication of a Cabinet portfolio. Limited officer resources will be spread between four members instead of five. Easier to fill the role if this area is dropped from a Cabinet portfolio in the future.
Disadvantages	Would need to be formally re-established if the need arises.	Duplication of an area of special interest already covered by a Cabinet Member who is also 'shadowed' by a non-executive Overview and Scrutiny Cabinet Liaison Member. Limited officer resources would be spread between five members instead of four.	None identified - the Cabinet Member provides the focus on this area of Council business and is 'shadowed' by a non-executive Overview and Scrutiny Cabinet Liaison Member.
Risks	None identified. This area is clearly important to the Council. In recognition of this, it	None identified. This area is clearly important to the Council. In recognition of this, it	None identified. This area is clearly important to the Council. In recognition of this, it

	has been included in a Cabinet portfolio.	has been included in a Cabinet portfolio.	has been included in a Cabinet portfolio.
--	---	---	---

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Council is asked to hold the non-executive Champion for Older People role vacant whilst this area is included in a Cabinet Portfolio, allowing the role to be re-instated if needed in the future.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Diversity – the Champion is appointed to take a particular interest in services and circumstances which affect and impact upon certain groups in the district, recognising that there are different and varying needs within this section of the Community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal financial implications as a direct result of this report. Champions may claim travel expenses incurred attending meetings necessary to their role and these are met from within the existing members travel budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

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 drafted this report in her role as Democratic Services Manager.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution Part 6 Section 4

Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers

Telephone: 01524 582057

E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk