

## **Champion for the Disabled - Briefing Note**

Motion submitted by Councillor Mel Guilding as proposer.

Seconders are Councillors Stephie Barber, Keith Budden, Mike Greenhall, Alan Biddulph and Peter Yates

*“This Council believes it could better support and therefore enhance the services provided by this Council for the disabled communities and their families by re-instating the position of Champion for the Disabled.”*

Officer Comments:

### **Background**

A Champion for the Disabled was created as a result of a motion to Council on 15 July 2015. This followed on from other champion roles being created, the first being for Older People, followed by Children and Young People and a Veterans' Champion.

The resolution in July 2015 was:

*Resolved:-*

- (1) That the role of Champion for the Disabled be created.
- (2) That Councillors Cozler and Guilding both be appointed as Champions for the Disabled for 2015-19.

As part of the review of the Constitution in 2018/19, the Constitutional Working Group considered the non-executive champion roles which had been created over time and recommended that the section relating to Member Champions in the old Constitution (Part 6 - Appointments & Designations, Section 5 - Member Champions Protocol and Role Definition) should be deleted from the new Constitution. The Working Group wished to see all champion roles incorporated into roles within Cabinet portfolios, except the Veterans Champion.

This was accepted by Council in approving the revised Constitution. The Cabinet portfolio for Communities and Social Justice, held by Councillor Sinclair, includes disability (“Equalities & Social Justice Initiatives including age; disability; race; religion or belief; sex, gender or gender identity.”)

As further background, the role of Champion for Older People was removed when a Cabinet Portfolio was revised to include Older People. Members may wish to consider whether an area of special interest which is included in a Cabinet portfolio should also be covered by a non-executive Champion and if that can be achieved without duplication of effort.

### **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications as a result of this motion.

### **Finance Implications**

The City Council's disabled champion roles did not attract any special responsibility allowance. Any travelling costs in the course of the champions' duties were met from existing budgets.

### **Section 151 Officer comments:**

The Section 151 officer has been consulted and has no comments.

**Deputy Monitoring Officer comments:**

It should be noted that the wording of the motion as submitted will elicit a decision from Council about whether it believes that re-instating the position of Champion for the Disabled will bring the benefits stated in the motion. It is not asking Council directly to re-instate the position of Champion for the Disabled, and would need to be amended if that is the intention of the proposer and seconders. Similarly, if Council does intend to re-instate the role then it might be useful to indicate how that would be filled, for example, that the role be filled by nomination and voting at this, or some future, council meeting.