

Member Champions

1. Introduction

“Member Champions” are elected members of the Council appointed to act as advocates or spokespeople for particular themes or particular communities which should be of interest to the Council in delivering its functions.

A topic for which a Member Champion is appointed should be:

- An agreed sustainable and corporate priority;
- An issue that can be defined in terms of its remit, ie not open-ended;
- An issue that cuts across the remit of two or more Committees, ie an issue which is not a specific responsibility of one of the Committees alone.

Section 2 below sets out the purpose of the role on a generic basis, applicable to all Member Champions regardless of topic. In addition, topic-specific “role specifications” may supplement the generic requirements, where these have been recommended by an external stakeholder organisation.

2. Purpose and remit of the role

- To raise the profile of the issue with elected members, officers and local communities
- To provide positive support to officers in driving forward the Council’s agenda on the issue
- To promote effective communication and positive working relationships both within the Council and with community groups and other stakeholders
- To foster cross-party co-operation on the issue

The Member Champion acts in an advocacy and advisory capacity and has no decision-making powers. The Member Champion will ensure that any recommendations for actions arising from the role are referred to the Chair and Vice Chair of the relevant Committee(s) and supporting officers.

The Member Champion will be supported by a lead officer as well as the Corporate Leadership Team and will be provided with sufficient access to information, briefings and meetings to enable them to make a meaningful contribution in their Champion role.

3. Process for identifying and appointing Member Champions

A proposal for a new Member Champion role may be made by a Motion to Council. It is recommended that Group Leaders should be consulted and advice from the Monitoring Officer and Managing Director sought.

The Policy and Resources Committee has the authority to approve the appointment of individual Members to roles of Member Champions which have been approved by Council.

4. Eligibility

A Member Champion can be any elected member of Council. There is no requirement to be, or not be, a Chair or Vice Chair of a Committee or member of a particular Committee. A member may be a Member Champion for more than one topic.

Once appointed, a Member Champion shall undertake the role for the duration of their Council term of office, unless decided otherwise by Policy and Resources Committee or where they wish to step down sooner. A Member Champion, may by exception, serve consecutive terms of office by agreement of the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Monitoring Officer will review the appointments in consultation with Group Leaders and report to the Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate.

5. Reporting

Member Champions shall be asked to provide the Council with a summary report of their activities annually, which officers will support in preparing, and may be questioned when presenting the report.