

**Report to: Council, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Report of: Corporate Director – Planning and Governance**

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**Subject: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

## **1. Recommendation**

### **1.1 That the Council agrees the appointment of Member Champions for:**

- **Armed Forces**
- **Heritage**
- **Children and Young People**
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**
- **Personal Safety and Civility.**

## **2. Background**

2.1 “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. Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution sets out in detail the role and remit of Member Champions.

2.2 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.

2.3 Member Champions undertake the role for the duration of their Council term of office and may serve consecutive terms.

## **3. Preferred Option**

3.1 Following the May 2024 elections, the Council is now recommended to consider appointments to its Member Champion roles for the period 2024 – 2028.

3.2 The Council’s current Member Champions are:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Current Champion</b>	<b>First Appointed</b>
Armed Forces	Councillor Agar	July 2022
Heritage	Councillor Gregson	May 2023
Children and Young People	Councillor Lamb	September 2021

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Councillor Norfolk	March 2022
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3.3 There is in addition one new appointment to make as Council agreed in March 2024 to establish a Member Champion for Personal Safety and Civility.

3.4 Background information on each role is attached at **Appendix 1**.

3.5 Group Leaders will be invited to make nominations at the Council meeting.

#### **4. Alternative Options Considered**

4.1 The alternative option is to discontinue with Member Champion roles, which is not recommended as this does not support the Council's constitutional and governance arrangements.

#### **5. Implications**

##### 5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

The Council has established a reserve of £5,000 to help support local activities and initiatives that further the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant. Proposals for allocations from the fund are considered by the Armed Forces Champion in consultation with the Corporate Director - Finance and Resources.

##### 5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

As explained above, Part 3 of the Council's Constitution sets out more information about Member Champions. The purpose of Member Champions is:

- 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.

##### 5.3 Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

##### 5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

See 5.2 above. The role of Member Champions is intended to support the Council in meeting its corporate policy objectives.

##### 5.5 Equality Implications

The appointment of a Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion supports the Council's equality objectives.

##### 5.6 Human Resources Implications

None arising from this report.

##### 5.7 Health and Safety Implications

None arising from this report.

5.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications  
None arising from this report.

**Ward(s):** All Wards  
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**Background Papers:** Council Constitution Part 3