

**Bolsover District Council**

**Standards Committee**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

**Member Champions**

**Report of the Governance Manager**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To give consideration to a role profile to establish Member Champions.

**1 Report Details**

**Introduction**

- 1.1 Member Champions are Councillors who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business and activities. The main responsibility of each Member Champion is to encourage communications and positive action over the issue they represent.

**Role of Member Champions**

- 1.2 All Member Champions will have an allocated area of responsibility agreed at Council on an annual basis or when changes arise.
- 1.3 All Member Champions must act reasonably in their role and recognise and work within the political management and working arrangements adopted by the Council. As such the Member Champion must work with and communicate regularly with the relevant Portfolio Holders.
- 1.4 A Member Champion cannot make decisions and must not commit the Council in any way or in a manner that could be interpreted as being contrary to established policy and practice. They may however confirm a position as stated in a published policy.
- To represent their area of interest both within and outside the Council in line with Council policy;
  - To contribute to the review and development of policies pertaining to their area of interest;
  - To challenge and question the Council, the Leader and the Portfolio Holders on issues relevant to their area of responsibility;
  - To act as a catalyst for change and improvement in service delivery;
  - To monitor the forward plan and seek information from the Leader, Committee Chairs and Officers about forthcoming business and exert influence on behalf of the interest;
  - To keep councillors of all parties up to date with activities in relevant to the

area of interest;

- To network with Member Champions from other local authorities with the same interest to keep up to date with current developments;
- To provide positive support and on occasions constructive challenge to officers in driving forward the Council agenda on relevant issues.
- To act as the Council's representative on relevant external bodies where appointed to by the Council.

## **Leader and Portfolio Holders**

1.5 The Leader and Portfolio Holders will:

- a) acknowledge the right of Member Champions to be consulted on matters relating to their area of interest;
- b) take full account of any views offered by the Member Champions prior to making decisions relating to the their area of interest;
- c) co-operate with Member Champions in the formulation of action plans they have developed with lead officers;
- d) consider nominating Champions to represent the Council at relevant conferences/seminars on the subject matter of the Member's interest.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 To enable Standards Committee to comment on the role profile as set out above to establish Member Champions at the Council.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

3.1 Each term of office lasts from the date of appointment to the following Annual Council.

3.2 In year changes and additions (where necessary, and after consultation with the Executive) to be appointed at the next available Council Meeting.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

None for this report.

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

5.1.1 At present no Member Champions are entitled to receive Special Responsibility Allowances. Any change to this position would require recommendation by the Remuneration Panel and approval of Full Council.

5.1.2 Member Champions can, if they wish, claim dependent carers', travelling and subsistence expenses at a meeting or event deemed relevant to the appointed Member Champion position.

### **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

5.2.1 None from this report.

### 5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 None from this report.

## 6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Standards Committee make any comments/observations on the role profile to establish Member Champions as set out in the report.

## 7 Decision Information

<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>  A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b>  (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p><b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed?</b></p>	Yes
<p><b>District Wards Affected</b></p>	All
<p><b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b></p>	All

## 8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
	N/A
<p><b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
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