

Bolsover District Council

Council

21st July 2021

MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg, Monitoring Officer

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

- For Council to give consideration to the Member Champion role profile and appoint Member Champions for the forthcoming year.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approves the Member Champion role profile in this report as recommended by Standards Committee; and
2. That Council appoints Member Champions from the attached list to serve until the Annual Council meeting in 2022.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Deputy Leader of the Council

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

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. 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.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):

Yes

No

Details:

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing:

Yes

No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Standards Committee

Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

Good Governance

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background**

- 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.
- 1.2 The role profile detailed below was approved by Standards Committee and referred to Council on 30th November 2020. The relevant minute extract from that meeting included the following:
- 1.3 *The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report which gave consideration on the role profile to establish Member Champions. He highlighted that the role was not a decision making one but one that facilitated engagement and discussion around a particular area. Following questions on the report the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the role profile (including a list of Member Champions) would go to Council to be agreed and would then be incorporated into the Council's Constitution. She noted that the Champions would be appointed at Council, usually at the Annual Council Meeting. She agreed to share the list of Member Champions with Members before the list was submitted to Council.*

RESOLVED - That the Standards Committee agree the draft role profile and support the submission to Council of the proposal to establish Member Champions as set out in the report.

2 **Role Profile of Member Champions**

- 2.1 All Member Champions will have an allocated area of responsibility agreed at Council on an annual basis or when changes arise.
- 2.2 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, and communicate regularly, with the relevant Portfolio Holders.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The role of a Member Champion is to:
- represent their area of interest both within and outside the Council in line with Council policy;
 - contribute to the review and development of policies pertaining to their area of interest;

- challenge and question the Council, the Leader and the Portfolio Holders on issues relevant to their area of responsibility;
- act as a catalyst for change and improvement in service delivery;
- 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;
- keep councillors of all parties up to date with activities in relevant to the area of interest;
- network with Member Champions from other local authorities with the same interest to keep up to date with current developments;
- provide positive support and on occasions constructive challenge to officers in driving forward the Council agenda on relevant issues; and
- act as the Council's representative on relevant external bodies where appointed to by the Council.

2.5 The Leader and Portfolio Holders will:

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

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 If it is the wish of members, to establish Member Champions at the Council as per the recommendation of the Standards Committee.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	List of Member Champions
Background Papers (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)	
N/A	

