

Bolsover District Council

Council on 31st July 2024

Member Champions 2024/25

Report of the Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Jim Fieldsend Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To appoint Member Champions for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

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 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 areas 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.
- act as the Council's representative on relevant external bodies where appointed to by the Council.

1.5 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 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.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The proposed Member Champions for 2024/25 Municipal Year are set out in **Appendix 1**.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To appoint Member Champions to advocate for their areas of interest.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the appointments of Member Champions as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: There are no financial or risk implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: There are no legal or data protection issues arising from this report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details: There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Staffing: Yes No

Details: There are no human resource issues implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	None directly
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
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Appendix No	Title
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1	Appointments of Member Champions for 2024/25
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Background Papers

<i>(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 Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
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None
