

Climate Emergency Member Champion

Report of the Leader of the Council

Recommended:

1. That the role of Climate Emergency Member Champion be established.
2. That Councillor N Gwynne be appointed to this role for the remainder of year ending June 2021.

SUMMARY:

- This report proposes that a new role of Climate Emergency Member Champion is established and that Councillor Gwynne is appointed to that role for the remaining year ending June 2021.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2017, Cabinet established a Member Champions scheme in order that it could benefit from the experience, knowledge and interests of non-Cabinet members in particular specialist areas.

2 The Role of TVBC Member Champions

- 2.1 Member Champions act in an advisory capacity to Cabinet in respect of specific areas of responsibility and, in particular, in the development of ideas that will help deliver the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan and Corporate Action Plan. Cabinet will commission Member Champions within their particular area of responsibility to:

- Research good practice in other Councils and organisations.
- Liaise with external bodies such as the Local Government Association (LGA) to identify relevant research and ideas that could help further the Council's corporate aims.
- Consider what impact any proposed changes to Council policy and or, services might have on their specific area of responsibility. This might involve liaising with relevant groups within the Borough.

3 How the role works in practice

- 3.1 Cabinet members, in consultation with their Cabinet colleagues, have the ability to request that a Member Champion undertakes work, as described in paragraph 2 above, on behalf of Cabinet.

- 3.2 If a Member Champion wishes to instigate a piece of work, the matter will be first discussed with the Leader and the relevant Portfolio Holder. If they are in support of the proposal, the Portfolio Holder will discuss the merits of the proposal with the Head of Service (or Corporate Director where there is no Head of Service lead) and then present the idea to Cabinet members for consideration and discussion.
- 3.3 If endorsed by Cabinet members the Member Champion, Portfolio Holder and relevant Head of Service will meet to discuss a way forward.
- 3.4 The Member Champion roles were established specifically to support Cabinet although the Champions themselves need not necessarily come from the ruling group. The roles should not encroach on the independent scrutiny role of OSCOM or indeed into the role of Cabinet members. Member Champions do not have the authority to commit resources on behalf of the Council or to instruct officers to undertake work on their behalf.

4 Member Champion Thematic Areas 2020/21

- 4.1 In June 2020, Member Champions were appointed to following areas, for the year to June 2021:

Armed Forces

Community Safety and Resilience

Culture and Heritage

Equality and Diversity

Member Development/Community Councillor Role

5 Proposed additional Member Champion Role

- 5.1 Test Valley Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. The OSCOM-endorsed Climate Emergency Action Plan was adopted by Council in June 2020.
- 5.2 The Action Plan has been achieved through the joint work of officers and cross party members. The differing experience and disciplines of both officers and Councillors have helped shape the objectives and maintain progress. It is proposed that the role of Climate Emergency Member Champion is established in order to further inform and assist with the on-going Climate Change work. It is proposed that Councillor Gwynne, who took an active role in the drafting of the Action Plan is appointed to this role for the remaining 2020/2021 period.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no resourcing implications arising from this report.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8 Equality Issues

8.1 No equality issues have been identified in adopting the recommendations arising from the report.

9 Other Issues

9.1 No other issues are identified.

10 Conclusion

10.1 It is proposed that a specific Climate Emergency Member Champion role be established to further enhance the Council's work in this field and that Councillor N Gwynne is appointed to this role.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	0	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Leader) Councillor P North			
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	13 January 2021