

# Member Champions

Report of the Leader

## Recommended:

That the Councillors as set out below be appointed to the following Member Champions roles for 2022/23:-

<b>Councillor Matthews</b>	<b>Armed Forces</b>
<b>Councillor Gwynne</b>	<b>Climate Emergency</b>
<b>Councillor P Lashbrook</b>	<b>Community Safety and Resilience</b>
<b>Councillor Baverstock</b>	<b>Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Councillor Hamilton</b>	<b>Equality and Diversity</b>
<b>Councillor Donnelly</b>	<b>Member Development/Community Councillor Role</b>
<b>Councillor Andersen</b>	<b>Voluntary and Third Sector</b>

### Summary:

- This report provides details of the work undertaken by Member Champions during the year 2021/22.
- The report proposes the appointment of Member Champions for 2022/23.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2017 Cabinet approved the introduction of a Member Champions scheme in order that it could benefit from the experience, knowledge and interests of non-Cabinet members, in particular thematic areas.
- 1.2 The role of a Member Champion is to 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.
- 1.3 It was agreed that Cabinet would commission Member Champions on an annual basis 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.
- 1.4 Cabinet members, in consultation with their Cabinet colleagues, have the ability to request that a Member Champion undertakes work, as described in paragraph 1.3 above, on behalf of Cabinet.
  - 1.5 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 and then present the idea to Cabinet members for consideration and discussion.
  - 1.6 If endorsed by Cabinet Members the Member Champion, Portfolio Holder and relevant Head of Service will meet to discuss a way forward.
  - 1.7 The Member Champions 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.
  - 1.8 The Member Champions are appointed by Cabinet on an annual basis. The role does not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance.

## **2 Background**

2.1 In May 2021 the following Member Champions were appointed:

- |                          |                                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| • Councillor Matthews    | Armed Forces                                 |
| • Councillor Gwynne      | Climate Emergency                            |
| • Councillor P Lashbrook | Community Safety and Resilience              |
| • Councillor Baverstock  | Culture and Heritage                         |
| • Councillor Hamilton    | Equality and Diversity                       |
| • Councillor Donnelly    | Member Development/Community Councillor Role |
| • Councillor Andersen    | Voluntary and Third Sector                   |

2.2 During the year 2021/22, Member Champions have actively participated in work in respect of their particular areas of responsibility to help in the development of ideas and to contribute to particular projects.

### **2.3 Armed Forces - Councillor Matthews**

2.4 Councillor Matthews has chaired quarterly meetings of the Civilian Military Forum (CMF), bringing together individuals from across the military and local community to identify best practice, emerging issue and areas where support was needed.

- 2.5 He has successfully led TVBC through the application process for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme achieving Bronze Award. Through the CMF Councillor Matthews has organised the creation of a single point of contact page on the website for Armed Forces support. The webpage signposts to support and information on health, education, housing, charities, funding, and employment, as well as support for veterans. It also advertises support events such as the “Brew, Banjo and Banter Club” which supports veterans to come together in an informal setting.
- 2.6 Councillor Matthews is also part of the health working group that sits under the CMF. Through this working group he has supported the new veteran group exercise classes at Andover Leisure Centre and is supporting conversations with health colleagues around encouraging GP services to become veteran-friendly. Councillor Matthews has also successfully set up a mental health hub and is actively providing support through this hub to the Armed Forces community.
- 2.7 Climate Emergency Member Champion - Councillor Gwynne
- 2.8 Councillor Gwynne has continued to actively engage in discussions with officers and the Portfolio Holder in seeking to ensure opportunities are taken to deliver on the Climate Emergency Action Plan and explore opportunities for further action on this and related matters.
- 2.9 A key contribution has been through leading an OSCOM Panel on the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) to help inform the review of the CEAP and feeding back on this to a Councillor briefing session in December 2021. Councillor Gwynne also participated in an additional OSCOM Panel that related to climate emergency matters through the consideration of the Climate and Ecology Bill.
- 2.10 Community Safety and Resilience – Councillor Phil Lashbrook
- 2.11 Councillor Lashbrook has continued to lead the Test Valley Resilience Forum. This year the forum has led, on behalf of the Hampshire LRF, a review of community resilience as part of a government initiative. This resulted in a Test Valley best practice case study being included in a national independent review of the Civil Contingencies Act. In addition the forum has reviewed the approach to resilience in Test Valley during the Covid pandemic. More recently and following Storm Eunice in February 2022 a workshop was held in May on funding opportunities available to help deal with power outages.
- 2.12 He has continued to engage as an active member of the Test Valley Community Safety Management Group. This partnership works to facilitate the sharing of intelligence amongst its strategic partners and to develop its co-ordinated local district approach to community safety planning. The group oversees and proposes the districts partnerships local priorities and action plans, and produces the statutory annual Strategic Assessment for approval by the Test Valley Partnership.

2.13 Councillor Lashbrook continues to represent the district on the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel which holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, and through which he is able to act as a reciprocal link for key concerns and issues between the partnership and the new Commissioner.

#### 2.14 Culture and Heritage – Councillor Baverstock

2.1 The Test Valley Creative Events programme was curated and delivered for October 2021. The focus of the events was to create opportunities for the Test Valley arts sector in networking, learning and development and collaboration post pandemic.

2.2 8 events were held across the borough working with cultural partners such as TVAF, Hillier's, Mottisfont, The Arts Council, The Arts Marketing Association, Enterprise First and the Enterprise Growth Hub and numerous local artists. 124 people attended the various events both online and in person.

2.3 Councillor Baverstock has been supporting the Arts Officer to develop ideas and plans for local Test Valley based artists and creatives to work in their area post pandemic.

2.4 To follow the events programme a successful funding application was submitted to Arts Council of England and TVBC were awarded a grant of £15,000 towards new artist's commissions. The intention of this is to provide opportunities for local Test Valley based artists and creatives to work in their area post pandemic. All the commissions are based around collaboration whether directly with another artists or through a mentoring scheme.

2.5 The commissions have been designed with cultural partners including Mottisfont, CAS, Hampshire Arts Network and Hampshire Libraries. The final two will be mentee opportunities within TVBC managed public art projects.

#### 2.6 Equality and Diversity – Councillor Hamilton

2.7 Councillor Hamilton has continued to build upon her work as a member champion in helping the council to develop new models of engagement that ensures the voices of groups from across the protected characteristics are heard as part of an inclusive and evidence-led approach to decision making.

#### 2.8 Member Development/Community Councillor Role – Councillor Donnelly

2.9 Councillor Donnelly has continued to engage in discussions with officers throughout the year to consider various aspects of the role of the Councillor and what might be appropriate to develop in order to further support Councillors.

2.10 Councillor Donnelly is a member of the Member and Community Development Group and has provided feedback and contributed to discussions in developing areas of work contained within the action plan. The Member and Community Development Group has taken forward key projects including the

member/officer market place and the refresh of member communications. Ongoing work includes considering development and support of councillors in their community facilitator role, an updated member induction programme for 2023 as well as ongoing member development initiatives.

#### 2.11 Voluntary and Third Sector – Councillor Andersen

2.12 Councillor Anderson has actively engaged with voluntary and third sector organisations throughout the year, seeking to understand their priorities and challenges and bringing these insights to officers, whether for specific resolution or to illustrate themes and trends which it is helpful for the Council to understand as it seeks to support the sector.

2.13 In particular this has helped add a qualitative narrative to the challenges organisations in the voluntary and third sector face in recovering from the pandemic and re-establishing their services. These challenges range from the financial, due to the impact on established funding models for example, to the practical, such as the need to redesign service delivery or recruit new volunteers due to previous volunteers stepping down. Understanding this narrative locally was an important element in the review of the Revenue Funding Programme which went before Cabinet in February and which has laid the foundations for a significant modernisation of how the Council provides revenue funding for the sector.

### **3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities**

3.1 The role of a Member Champion is to 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.

### **4 Options**

4.1 To not appointment Member Champions for the year 2022/23.

4.2 To appointment Member Champions for the year 2022/23. Following consultation with Cabinet Members, it is suggested that the following appointments be made for 2022/23:-

- Armed Forces Member Champion
- Climate Emergency Member Champion
- Community Safety and Resilience Member Champion
- Culture and Heritage Member Champion
- Equality and Diversity Member Champion
- Member Development/Community Councillor Role Member Champion
- Voluntary and Third Sector Member Champion

## **5 Option Appraisal**

- 5.1 Member Champions provide valuable insight into their thematic areas providing advice and support to Cabinet Members in particular areas of work and helping to shape and develop projects.
- 5.2 Member Champions ensure that non-Cabinet Members who have specialist knowledge and experience are able to contribute to policy development.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

## **7 Resource Implications**

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

## **8 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **9 Equality Issues**

- 9.1 No equality issues have been identified.

## **10 Other Issues**

- 10.1 Community Safety -None
- 10.2 Environmental Health Issues - None
- 10.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – Wider issues being consider by the Climate Emergency Member Champion.
- 10.4 Property Issues - None
- 10.5 Wards/Communities Affected - All

## **11 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation**

- 11.1 The introduction of Member Champions has involved more members in the process of policy development and at the same time has allowed Cabinet to benefit from the experience, knowledge and interests of non-Cabinet members.
- 11.2 It is proposed that Member Champions be reappointed for 2022/23 to allow the continued contribution of knowledge and experience from non-Cabinet Members.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

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:	None	File Ref:	N/A
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(Portfolio: Leader) Councillor P North

Officer:	Emma Horbury	Ext:	8001
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	22 June 2022
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