



2. Cabinet members, in consultation with their Cabinet colleagues, have the ability to request that a Councillor Champion undertakes work, as described in points 1 a-c, on behalf of Cabinet.
3. If a Councillor 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.
4. If endorsed by Cabinet Members, the Councillor Champion, Portfolio Holder and relevant Head of Service will meet to discuss a way forward.
5. The Councillor Champion roles specifically support Cabinet although the champions themselves need not necessarily come from the ruling group.
6. The role of a Councillor Champion should not encroach on the independent scrutiny role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or indeed into the role of Cabinet members.
7. Councillor Champions do not have the authority to commit resources on behalf of the Council or to instruct officers to undertake work on their behalf.
8. Councillors Champions are appointed by Cabinet for the term of the Council.
9. The Councillor Champion role does not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Councillors have, from time to time, been appointed to various Champion positions since the scheme has been in place as set out below.
  - Armed Forces
  - Climate Emergency
  - Community Safety and Resilience
  - Culture and Heritage
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Member Development/Community
  - Voluntary and Third Sector
- 2.2 At its meeting on 20 November 2024 Cabinet appointed a number of Councillor Champions to range of thematic areas. Since that time, a further area seeking to support and champion the Borough's cultural and creative sectors across the borough has been identified.
- 2.3 This report suggests the establishment of a Councillor Champion for Culture and the appointment of a Councillor with specialist knowledge and experience to the position.

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

- 3.1 The role of a Councillor 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 Option 1**

To not appoint to the position of Councillor Champion for Culture. This option is not recommended.

#### **4.2 Option 2**

To appoint to the Councillor Champion for Culture position as identified in the report for the remainder of the term of the Council, until Borough Elections in May 2027. This option is recommended.

#### **4.3 Option 3**

- 4.4 To make an alternative Councillor Champion for Culture appointment.

### **5 Option Appraisal**

- 5.1 Councillor 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 Councillor Champions ensure that non-Cabinet members who have specialist knowledge and experience are able to contribute to policy development.
- 5.3 Is it proposed that the Councillor Champion for Culture position as identified in the report be appointed for the remainder of the term of the Council (until May 2027), to allow the continued contribution of knowledge and experience from non-Cabinet members.
- 5.4 The proposed appointment reflects the named Councillors' skills, interests and areas of expertise.

### **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 An evaluation of the risks indicates 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 in appointing the Councillor Champion, though their appointment will contribute to and enhance the Council's equity, diversity and inclusion work.

## 10 Other Issues

- 10.1 Community Safety - None identified.
- 10.2 Environmental Health Issues - None identified.
- 10.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – None identified.
- 10.4 Property Issues - None identified.
- 10.5 Wards/Communities Affected – None identified.

## 11 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 11.1 The introduction of Councillor Champions has involved more councillors 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 the Councillor Champion for Culture role be appointed to for the remainder of the term of the Council to allow the continued contribution of knowledge and experience from non-Cabinet Members.
- 11.3 Should other champion roles be identified there is the ability to make additional appointments as necessary.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

[Member Champion Cabinet Report 18 October 2017](#)

[Councillor Champions Report 2024/2027](#)

### 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
----------------	------	-----------	-----

(Portfolio: Leader) Councillor P North

Officer:	Emma Silvertan	Ext:	8001
----------	----------------	------	------

Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	15 January 2025
------------	---------	-------	-----------------