

Member Champions

Report of the Leader of the Council

Recommended:

That the Councillors as set out below be appointed to the following Member Champions roles for 2020/21:-

Councillor Matthews	Armed Forces
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

SUMMARY:

- This report proposes the appointment of Member Champions for 2020/21.

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.

2 The Role of TVBC Member Champions

- 2.1 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. It was agreed that 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.
- 3.2 If endorsed by Cabinet members the Member Champion, Portfolio Holder and relevant Head of Service will meet to discuss a way forward.
- 3.3 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.

4 Member Champion Thematic Areas 2020/21

- 4.1 It is suggested that the following appointments be made for 2020/21:-
 - Armed Forces
 - Community Safety and Resilience
 - Culture and Heritage
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Member Development/Community Councillor Role

5 Voluntary and Third Sector Appointment Process

- 5.1 The Member Champions are appointed by Cabinet on an annual basis at its June meeting. The role does not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance.

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

9 Other Issues

- 9.1 Community Safety – None
- 9.2 Environmental Health Issues – None
- 9.3 Property Issues – None
- 9.4 Wards/Communities Affected – All

10 Conclusion

- 10.1 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.

<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			
Officer:	Karen Dunn	Ext:	8401
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	17 June 2020