

Member Champions

1 Role description

- 1.1. Member Champions are appointed by Full Council. Their main responsibility is to act as an ambassador on behalf of the Council and promote the area for which they are champion,
- 1.2. Represent all those people who are covered by the position and ensure that their needs are identified, recognised and met where possible by the Council and other relevant bodies, including the voluntary sector.
- 1.3. Act as spokesperson to promote the positive aspects of the Council's work among those on whom the Member Champion's interest area impacts.
- 1.4. Promote a joined-up approach between the activities of the Council and the work of other organisations, in supporting activities for the Member Champion's interest area and involving them in developing services.
- 1.5. Encourage people to play a fuller role in shaping the policies relevant to the Member Champion's interest area and to participate with statutory and voluntary organisations that are planning, making decisions on and delivering services that affect them.
- 1.6. Encourage statutory and voluntary organisations to actively seek out and engage with other bodies in planning, defining and delivering services which affect them.

2 Duties and responsibilities

- 2.1. Foster cross-party co-operation and be able to engage with relevant outside groups and Officers.
- 2.2. Understand and express the opinions and priorities of those groups.
- 2.3. Be sensitive to Council priorities. Champions cannot forget about their broader role as a Councillor.
- 2.4. Act in respect of the whole range of relevant issues.
- 2.5. Raise the profile of the issue and signaling to the relevant groups the Council's commitment to the issue.
- 2.6. Foster the engagement of a wider range of Councillors in the issue.

- 2.7. Promote effective communication and positive working relationships both within the Council and among relevant partners, stakeholders and community groups.
- 2.8. Provide positive support and, on occasions, constructive challenge to Officers in driving forward the Council's agenda on the issue.
- 2.9. Be available to be the Council's nominee on appropriate outside bodies and to attend relevant conferences, training and briefing opportunities.
- 2.10. Keep up to date on issues relevant to the Member Champion's interest.
- 2.11. Identify and represent needs of groups and individuals who are at the moment not represented or part of the existing processes.

3 Accountability

- 3.1. Member Champions shall report annually to the last ordinary Full Council meeting of the year, but the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee may ask for updates.