

Part 5 Codes and Protocols

5.6 Member Champion Protocol

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Member Champions exist to provide a voice for traditionally underrepresented groups, or issues which need to be kept at the forefront of council business although they may not be the responsibility of any individual or committee and / or which may cross a number of different areas.
- 1.2 Member Champions are elected councillors (but not a Cabinet Member / Assistant Portfolio Holder) who will seek to make sure that their area of interest is taken into account when Council policy is being developed and decisions taken.
- 1.3 Council, on the advice of Cabinet, will decide on what areas of interest to have Member Champions for and who the appointees shall be. Appointments will be made at Annual Council and while changes can be made each year the expectation is that appointees will be appointed for a minimum of 2 years to ensure continuity in the role.

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1 Within the context of the powers of the Council and having regard to the Council's overall corporate priorities, the Member Champion will:
 - 2.1.1 Make sure that their area of interest is taken into account when the Council is developing policy or making decisions and exert influence in that regard.
 - 2.1.2 Act as a catalyst for change and improvement including working with national and local initiatives relevant to their area.
 - 2.1.3 Ask questions about performance and resourcing for their area.
 - 2.1.4 Raise the profile of their area within, and outside, the Council.
 - 2.1.5 Promote good practice within the Council and make the authority aware of good practice from elsewhere.
 - 2.1.6 Engage with, and exert influence on, external partners and bodies who work in the area including sharing good practice where appropriate.
 - 2.1.7 Engage with other members, officers and community groups who have an interest / stake in the area.
 - 2.1.8 Keep up-to-date with all relevant matters connected with the area and pursue relevant personal development and training opportunities.

3. Mutual Expectations

- 3.1 The Council is empowering a Member Champion and therefore will put in place such arrangements as it considers appropriate to support the Member Champion – this includes access to information held by the Council relating to their area and access to a reasonable amount of Officer (provided work priority of Officers is not prejudiced).

- 3.2 The Council expects Member Champions to act reasonably when carrying out their role and recognise, and work effectively within, the political management and corporate working arrangements of the Council.
- 3.3 A Member Champion cannot take decisions that bind the Council or commit the Council in a way that is contrary to established policy or practice. Otherwise the Member Champion may take all reasonable actions judged by the Member as being necessary to perform their role including engaging with the media to confirm a Council position as stated in published policy or expressing a personal view in their capacity as the Member Champion.

4. Reporting

- 4.1 Member Champions shall provide a written report to Annual Council on work achieved during the year and identifying priorities for the future.