

Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Mark Young /
Gary Williams, Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

Report Author: Steve Price, Democratic Services Manager

Title: Member Champions

1. What is the report about?

Council is asked to consider re-appointing councillors to four 'member champion' roles.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The previous Council set out the framework for member champions and appointed a councillor to each role. Only two of the councillors appointed are still members of the county council and following last May's council elections it is considered appropriate to see Council's views on member champions.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Council considers the information in this report and:

- (i) Confirms that the champion roles for Older People, Homelessness, Carers and Learning Disabilities be retained; and
- (ii) Considers any nominations submitted by councillors for appointment to the roles.

4. Report details

4.1 Section 19 of the Council's Constitution currently identifies four Champion roles. These are:

- Older People's Champion
- Homelessness Champion
- Carers' Champion
- Learning Disabilities Champion

4.2 In November 2012 Council resolved that the four Champion roles set out above should be appointed and role descriptions were developed to guide these champions (attached as Appendix 1). The previous Council made the following appointments:

- Older People's Champion – Councillor Bobby Feeley

- Carers' Champion – Councillor Ann Davies
- Learning Disabilities Champion – Councillor Ray Bartley
- Homelessness Champion – Councillor Bill Tasker

4.3 The role of Champions in this authority has evolved from the one appointment of an 'Older People's Champion' which emanated from the guidance in the Strategy for Older People issued by the Welsh Assembly, that every local authority in Wales should have such a Champion. The Corporate Governance Committee considered in 2013 whether to recommend further Champions roles and the minutes of the Committee's discussion are attached for information as Appendix 2. The Committee decided not to recommend creating further champions. However, additional 'champion' roles may be included in Cabinet members' portfolios, such as Armed Forces Champion (Councillor Mainon) or addressed generally as part of a lead member's duties. The Chair of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Group (Councillor Irving) would undertake the role of Scrutiny Champion when required.

4.4 All councillors have been issued with information on the 4 roles and invited to express an interest in being appointed with a short CV. Those received will be circulated to members prior to the Council meeting.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022 contains specific priorities for young people and housing and homelessness, and actions to support older people and carers within its resilient communities' priority. The re-appointment of member champions undertaking the roles outlined in the role descriptions would assist the Council's aims of supporting these areas.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are occasional travelling costs incurred if a member champion attends meetings or events related to their champion role. These will be contained within the existing budgets allocated for member travel and, if necessary, subsistence.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A well-being impact assessment is not required for these appointments.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

During the last Council term full Council and the Corporate Governance Committee considered the roles of champions. All members have been issued with information on the roles and invited to submit nominations and CVs for Council to consider. It will be for Council to decide whether to re-appoint member champions.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The financial impact of re-appointing councillors to the member champion roles is negligible and likely to be limited to meeting occasional travel and subsistence costs incurred undertaking the roles.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The previous Council's approach had been to make appointments to the 4 key roles whilst minimising the risk that creating champion roles could lead to confusion in terms of Cabinet members' duties, accountability and powers and the activities of separate member champions.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 19 and 19.6 of the Council's Constitution which outlines the roles and functions of councillors and permits the nomination of councillors as champions for the 4 roles outlined in this report.