

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 27th February 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report Author: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Role of Champions

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report sets out the different roles that have been suggested by Members to be undertaken by Member Champions.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To seek the Committee's views and recommendations regarding the various Champion roles that have been suggested and the process by which Members should be appointed to any recommended roles.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That the Committee considers what additional, if any, Champion roles should be recommended to Full Council, the method by which such Champions should be appointed and the role descriptions that should be applied to those roles.

4. Report details

4.1 The role of Champions in this Council has evolved from the appointment of an 'Older People's Champion' which was as a result of guidance issued by the Welsh Government that every local authority in Wales should have such a champion.

4.2 The Council's Constitution currently identifies four Champion roles. These are:

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

4.3 At its meeting on 6th November 2012 Council resolved that the four Champions set out in 4.2 above should be appointed at the Council meeting on 4th December 2012 and adopted role descriptions for these Champions. These role descriptions are set out in Appendix 1.

4.4 Council further resolved that the Corporate Governance Committee should be asked to consider whether there was merit in appointing Champions for other interests identified by members and provide clarification of these roles if recommended as suitable for adoption.

4.5 The other interests suggested by Members at the Council meeting on 6th November were as follows:

Young Persons' Champion
Young Carers' Champion
Scrutiny Champion

4.6 In addition, the Council endorsed the Armed Forces Community Covenant in September 2012. During the debate on this matter it was suggested that consideration of an Armed Forces Champion be part of the review of Champions generally.

4.7 The Council has recently also received a letter from the WLGA spokesperson for Welfare Reform and Poverty asking that authorities consider appointing Poverty Champions.

4.8 A survey of other local authorities in Wales has revealed that there is a wide variation in how Champions are appointed and the areas of interest that they champion. In at least one authority, there are no champions.

4.9 The responses received from other Councils in respect of their Champions are set out in a table as Appendix 2 to this report.

4.10 The one consistent role in respect of which champions have been appointed across Wales is that of an Older People's Champion. In some authorities this may have a slightly different title and is sometimes part of a wider champion brief. Other common champion roles relate to Carers, Disability, Member Development, Children and Scrutiny.

4.11 As set out in 4.2 above the Council has already appointed a Champion for Carers and has a Learning Disability Champion.

4.12 The Council does not have a Scrutiny Champion appointed by Council. There has been a Scrutiny Champion in the past which has been a role to which the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny have appointed one of their number. This is consistent with the practice of other Councils. There is a Scrutiny Champions Network which exchanges information and ideas about Scrutiny.

4.13 Many Councils consider that the role of Champion is unnecessary where there is a Lead Member with responsibility for a certain area. In these authorities Champions are only appointed where there is no clear Lead Member responsibility or there is a clear cross cutting theme.

4.14 Members should take into account in considering these roles whether there is already a clear role in respect of these issues contained within Lead Member Portfolios. A copy of the Lead Member Portfolios are attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

4.15 At its meeting on 6th November 2012 Council approved role descriptions for the four identified Champion roles. These are attached as Appendix 1. These role descriptions seek to provide clarity and consistency as to the role of Champions in Denbighshire. It is suggested that any new roles should have similar descriptions. Members may also wish to consider whether Champions should be required, once appointed, to set out their priority activities as Champions and report back, perhaps on an annual basis, to a committee or other member forum on their progress during the year.

4.16 There is also variety in the way in which Champions are appointed. In some authorities, Champions are appointed by the Executive, or in some cases the Leader. In other authorities Champions are appointed by Council. The Champions currently identified in this Council's Constitution as set out in paragraph 4.2 above are appointed by Council. Members are asked to consider whether this is the most appropriate method of appointing further Champions.

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

5.1 The existing Champion roles contribute to the priorities regarding vulnerable people and access to good quality housing.

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

6.1 There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

7.1 Group Leaders were consulted and were in favour of appointing the four Champion roles approved by Council in November 2012. All Members have been given an opportunity to suggest other champion roles. Other Welsh authorities have been surveyed as to their Champions.

7.2 SLT were consulted on the role of Champions and expressed concern that there is the possibility of confusion and/or duplication between the roles of Champions and Lead Members where the issue to be championed falls within the remit of an individual Lead Member.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

8.1 There are no additional costs directly associated with this report.

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

9.1 There are no identified risks.

10. Power to make the Decision

10.1 Section 2 Local Government Act 2000.

CHAMPIONS

Carmarthenshire	<p>Leader Deputy Leader (Housing) Deputy Leader (Community & Rural Affairs) Chair of the Democratic Services Committee</p> <p>Armed Forces Champion 50+ Champion Community Champion Anti-Poverty Champion Member Development Champion</p>
Bridgend	<p>Appointed by Cabinet:</p> <p>Equalities H&S - - Children & Young People - Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Not formally appointed:</p> <p>Older people's Waste and recycling</p>
Neath Port Talbot	<p>One Member designated Champion and that is for Older Persons and Carers, who is appointed by Council.</p>
Flintshire	<p>No longer have Champions.</p>
Conwy	<p>Lead Member for Children (Statutory Appointment) – The Leader Welsh Language Champion (Statutory Appointment) – Cabinet Member for Governance and Regulation (Councillor Philip C. Evans J.P.) Carers Champion – Councillor Cheryl Carlisle Third Sector Champion – Chair of the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member Development Champion – Chair of the Democratic Services Committee Older Peoples Champion – Councillor Andrew Hinchliff Disability Champion - Councillor Deion Smith Poverty Champion - Cabinet Member for Communities (Councillor Phil Edwards)</p> <p>Cabinet appoint, and in some instances, confirm the appointments.</p>
Torfaen	<p>Leader as the Sustainability Champion and Deputy Leader as the Older Persons' Champion – which are part of their portfolio areas. Member Development Champion who is appointed by Council at the AGM. 'back bencher' appointed as the Armed Forces Champion which was an in year appointment by Leader/ C Ex .</p>

Gwynedd	<p>Appointed by Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people • Carers • Autism • Disability • The Voice of Children and Young Persons <p>Ex officio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of Democratic Services Committee as Members' Development Champion • A chair of scrutiny as Scrutiny Champion <p>To be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty (see letter from WLGA 15/1/13 and Carl Sargeant 5/2/13) • Road safety (throwback to previous era)
Caerphilly	<p>The Youth Champion is elected annually (subject to receiving nominations from Members) and the following are appointed at the AGM:</p> <p>Child Poverty Champion Equalities Champion Homeless Persons Champion Older Persons Champion</p>
Rhondda	<p>Four Champions as follows who are the respective Cabinet Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members' Services Champion • Champion for Older People • Social Justice Champion • Children's Champion <p>The Leader selects the Champions.</p>
Monmouthshire	<p>Scrutiny Champion and a Disability Champion both appointed by Council.</p>

<p>Councillor Hugh H Evans OBE Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development</p> <p>Responsible for: External Relationships, Collaboration Partnerships, Regional Lead, Equalities, Local and Regional Economic Strategy, Town Plans, Rhyl Going Forward, Work with local businesses, Management of Cabinet</p> <p>Member of: Chair of Corporate Equalities Group; Member of Rhyl Going Forward Programme Board; Rhyl Harbour Board; Local Service Board; Strategic Investment Group; Member of the WLGA Council and WLGA Co-ordinating Committee; Conwy and Denbighshire Collaboration Board; North Wales Regional Leadership Board ; Chair of North Wales Economic Ambition Board, West Rhyl Housing Improvement Board; North Wales Coast Regeneration Partnership Board</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Cabinet works effectively by managing the Cabinet's forward plan and ensuring that Cabinet works through it • engage all Councillors in the decision making process • hold lead members accountable for their portfolios and ensure they involve other members as appropriate, before decisions are sought • Adopt a strategy to deliver the corporate priority for Economic & Community Ambition aimed at strengthening the economy of Denbighshire in order to create more business opportunities and jobs • Develop a better understanding of deprivation across Denbighshire supported by a targeted action plan to improve outcomes for residents and communities • Deliver the Rhyl Going Forward plan • Ensure delivery of the priorities for the county's individual communities as identified through Town and Area Plans • Ensure that a business plan is agreed for regional collaboration on economic development and that the objectives of the plan are achieved • Champion economic development and regeneration and ensure Corporate and wider stakeholder “buy in” to deliver set objectives • To maintain effective communication between the Council and external organisations, including WAO, WG, AMs’ MPs etc • to ensure that the council meets its requirements in relation to Equality Impact Assessment and staff/Member training • To explore internal/external collaboration projects to achieve efficiencies and for sharing best practices • To challenge Managers to reduce sickness levels within their services
<p>Councillor Eryl Wyn Williams Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Education</p> <p>Responsible for: School Standards, Modernising Education, Regional Lead on Education, Lead on CYPP, WJEC, North Wales School Improvement Board, Community Learning Centres,</p> <p>Member of: deputising for the Leader at meetings with North Wales Leaders, Major Projects; LDP; North Wales Residual Waste Food Boards; supporting the Leader with external relations</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve education <u>outcomes</u> for children and young people in Denbighshire. • To improve the quality and provision of education for all ages in the lifelong learning context. • To maintain the financial commitment of Education as a priority for Denbighshire • To ensure that Denbighshire provides an <u>inclusive</u> education experience for children and young people in order to secure their <u>well-being</u>. • To deliver the <u>modernisation</u> and capital investment programme for schools in Denbighshire County Council. • Provide political leadership in terms of delivering an adopted LDP and thereafter its review and monitoring process. • To maintain effective communication between the Council and external organisations, including WAO, WAG, AMs’ MPs etc. • To ensure that Denbighshire develops an effective service within the region through the collaboration agenda. • To explore internal/external collaborative projects to achieve efficiency gains and for sharing best practices • Challenge managers to reduce sickness levels within their services

<p>Councillor Bobby Feeley Lead Member for Social Care, Adult and Children's Services</p> <p>Responsible for: Adult Social Care, Children Services, Lead on NHS matters, Regional Lead on Social Care, Lead on HSCWB / LSCB</p> <p>Member of: Modernising Social Services Board; National Social Services Partnership Forum; Cefndy Healthcare; Local Safeguarding Children's Board; Health, Social Care and Well-being Board; BCUHB; Local Adult Protection Committee</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective political leadership and input into the Modernisation of Social Services Board • To ensure that the views of Denbighshire residents and potential impacts on social care as a result of the NHS Review are communicates to BCUHB to influence final outcomes • To reduce the levels of sickness absence in both Adult Services and Children's Services • To develop Extra Care Housing across the authority • To further develop the role of the Council as a good Corporate Parent • To champion the user views and develop approaches to participation to ensure they inform service developments • To develop resources in communities to meet social needs identified • To explore internal/external collaborative projects to achieve efficiency gains and for sharing best practices • Challenge managers to reduce sickness levels within their services
<p>Councillor Hugh Irving Lead Member for Customers and Communities</p> <p>Responsible for: Customer Service Standards, Communications and Marketing, Website Developments/Customers Insight, Town and Community Councils, Voluntary Sector, Housing including Council Housing, Housing Strategy and Homelessness, Welfare Reform Benefits</p> <p>Member of: Council Closer to the Community Board, Strategic Corporate Communications Group; Family Information Services Steering Group; Strategic Housing Partnership; Affordable Housing Working Group; Welfare Reform Group; West Rhyl Housing Board</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver an efficient, effective and high quality Housing Service • Understand the impact of the Welfare Reform on the council as a whole and ensure that services are preparing to deal with it accordingly • Implementation of the Council Tax Support changes • To enhance the reputation of the Council through the delivery of effective communication and marketing of services. • To support the delivery of the revised Corporate Communications Strategy. • To lead on the continued strategic development of communications and marketing across the authority. • To act as ambassador for effective communication, internally and externally. • To improve the standard of customer service across the authority to help achieve our vision of delivering excellent services and customer care. • To enhance positive links with Town/Community Councils • To support the work and commitment of the voluntary sector • To explore internal/external collaboration projects to achieve efficiencies and for sharing best practices • To challenge Managers to reduce sickness levels within their services

<p>Councillor Huw Ll. Jones Lead Member for Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development</p> <p>Responsible for: Tourism Strategy, Leisure, Destination Management, Libraries, Youth, Arms Length Companies, Rural Development, Countryside and Biodiversity, Tourism and Heritage, Welsh Language</p> <p>Member of: Denbighshire Rural Development Plan Partnership, Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych, Tourism Partnership North Wales, Bodelwyddan Castle Trust, Clwyd Pension Panel, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Board, Creating an Active Denbighshire Group.</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that Marketing and Tourism Strategies deliver their objectives of ensuring Denbighshire is a great place to work and visit. • To promote Tourism and champion the Destination Denbighshire campaign • To maximise investment through the Rural Development Plan. • To ensure there is effective support provided to businesses to help to sustain and grow the local economy as part of the Economic Strategy • To maintain a quality and high performing Leisure, Libraries and Youth Service for the residents of Denbighshire • To ensure that the council plays a full role in the development and delivery of Denbighshire's Destination Management Plan • Lead on the development of Denbighshire's policies for Welsh language provision in the County • To explore internal/external collaborative projects to achieve efficiency gains and for sharing best practices • Challenge Managers to reduce sickness levels within their services
<p>Councillor Barbara Smith Lead Member for Modernising and Performance</p> <p>Responsible for: Business Transformation, Technology/Efficiency, Flexible working etc., HR, ICT, Corporate Plan, Corporate Governance, Member Training and Development, Regional Lead on 'Support Services', Service and Performance Challenges</p> <p>Member of: Modernisation Strategy Board, Modernising Social Services Board, LJCC and Joint Council for Wales</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the production of the Corporate Plan 2012 – 2017 and ensure achievements are monitored on an annual basis • Provide leadership in the development of a Member training programme that is fit for the purpose of supporting current and future Members • Oversee the amalgamation of Coroner districts and recruitment of full time Coroner within the timescales and also the future development of the Coroner's role • Provide political leadership to "Modernising the Council" priority, delivering on the following themes: Dynamic workforce, Service modernisation, Future workspaces • Monitor the delivery of the ICT Strategy Phase 2, ensuring that investment in ICT innovation and infrastructure is focused upon business outcomes and supporting collaborative working in ICT provision where the benefit for Council is clear • Support the delivery of the People Strategy with particular focus on reducing sickness absence and increased rate of appraisal completion and encouraging a culture of flexibility to deliver organisational change • Champion member use of technology, to enable ease of working and to work towards the reduction of paper reports • To ensure Denbighshire has a modern HR Service, fit for purpose, proactively supporting Managers to manage • To explore internal/external collaboration projects to achieve efficiencies and for sharing best practices

<p>Councillor David Smith Lead Member for Public Realm</p> <p>Responsible for: Environment, including Waste, Highways and Infrastructure, Planning and Public Protection (including Private Sector Housing issues: Empty Homes; Housing Grants; Housing Enforcement), Licensing, Sub-regional/Regional lead on public realm, Safer Communities</p> <p>Member of: TAITH; Rhyl Harbour Board; North Wales Safety Partnership; North Wales Safety Board; NWRWTP; People & Places Programme Board; Safer Communities; integrated Transport Board; YJS Management Board</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain / improve recycling rates • Ensure key projects affecting Denbighshire County Council are delivered and pose no risk to Denbighshire. • Ensure the Councils environmental regulatory/enforcement activity including fly tipping contributes to a safer Denbighshire for all. • Promote appropriate housing that is safe, affordable, accessible and fit for purpose in the private sector. • Ensure active engagement with TAITH to ensure DCC transport priorities receive recognition. • Secure appropriate levels of investment for the highway network • Address Dog Fouling concerns across Denbighshire • Review of CCTV locally and regionally • To explore internal/external collaborative projects to achieve efficiency gains and for sharing best practices • Challenge Managers to reduce sickness levels within their services
<p>Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill Lead Member for Finance and Assets</p> <p>Responsible for: Revenue & Capital Budgets & Financial Legislation; Treasury Management; Risk Assessments Assets Strategy; Health & Safety Procurement; Internal Audit; Revenues and Benefits; Property Services</p> <p>Member of: Chair of Strategic Investment Group; Member of the WLGA Council; Conwy and Denbighshire Collaboration Board; CLAW; Modernising Board, Cefndy Healthcare Board, Rhyl Harbour Board; Asset Management Group</p>	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sound financial management of the authority • Improve the authority's energy consumption and efficiency • Develop proposals for a sustainable asset portfolio • Improve Health and Safety awareness with Members • Monitor that finance is in place to underpin the new Corporate Plan • Challenge Managers to reduce sickness levels within their services • Explore internal/external collaboration projects to achieve efficiencies and for sharing best practices