



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

Date 17th April 2018

Subject: Member Champions

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

To propose a new role description for Member Champions be added to the Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Members are asked to comment on the proposed role description attached at Appendix 1, and recommend its addition into the Constitution for the civic year 2018/19.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

None arising from this report

Financial : FIN/10/19/SL

At present no member champions are entitled to receive Special Responsibility Allowances. Any change to this position would require recommendation by the Remuneration Panel and approval of Full Council. Travel expenses can be claimed for Member Champion duties.

Staffing :

None.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None arising from this report.

Risk Assessment :

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

None.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Member Champions report – Prosperous Communities committee 20 March 2018.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Background

1.1 Currently, there are 13 Member Champions that were appointed at Prosperous Communities committee on 6 June 2017. These were:

Heritage and Tourism	Paul Howitt-Cowan
Housing	Jessie Milne
Planning	Stuart Kinch
ED/Town Centre	Sheila Bibb
Health	Angela White
Localism/Neigh Plans	Steve England
Community Safety/ASB	Trevor Young
Young People/Skills	Reg Shore
Transport	Lewis Strange
Safeguarding/Mental Health	Gill Bardsley
Volunteering	Jessie Milne
Democracy	Roger Patterson
Armed Forces	Tom Smith

1.2 At the same meeting, Prosperous Communities committee asked that 'a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the role, purpose and positions held by Member Champions, in order that their future use could be better assessed'.

1.3 On 15 September 2017 an email was sent out to Team Managers asking them for their feedback on work they had done with Member Champions, and how aware of Member Champions they were;

1.4 Following this, a further email went to the Member Champions themselves gauging opinion on how the role of a Member Champion could be improved or changed;

1.5 A second email went to Member Champions following this asking for feedback on the draft role description, as well as asking the following questions:

- Within the job description, would you like to see further definition on the different Member Champion roles?
- Some of the Member Champion roles overlap with the roles of committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Should this lead to collaborative work between a Member Champion and a committee Chair, or should there be no Member Champion under these circumstances?
- What, in your view, are the areas that need Member Champions?
- Would you favour a review of Member Champion roles every 18 months at Prosperous Communities committee?
- Would you favour reports coming to Prosperous Communities committee every 6 months with an update to committee on the work that has been undertaken by each Member Champion (due to the current number of Member Champions, this would need to be done at two separate meetings)?

- 1.6 At its meeting on 20 March 2018, Prosperous Communities committee agreed to recommend the role description as attached to this report;
- 1.7 Currently, either the Corporate Policy and Resources committee or Prosperous Communities committee can appoint Member Champions for a civic year. In 2017, only Prosperous Communities appointed any Member Champions.

2 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Currently there is no role description for the role of Member Champions, and no single route for them to feed back to their fellow Members, or into the Committee structure. A proposed Role Description is attached at Appendix 1. Having a Role Description would bring Member Champions into line with other positions within the Council that Members can hold;

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 This report and role description aims to give some structure to the role of Member Champions, whilst still allowing some flexibility when it comes to appointments (particularly the option within the role description referring to in-year appointments).