



Council

26 June 2023

Subject: Appointment of Member Champions in respect of Armed Forces and Risk - Civic Years 2023/24 – 2024/25

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To appoint Member Champions in respect of Armed Forces and Risk for the period of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 civic years (2 year appointment)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Council are asked to: -

- 1) appoint Councillor Sebastian Hague as the Council's Member Champion for Armed Forces until the end of the civic year 2024/25;
- 2) appoint Mrs Alison Adams, lay Independent Member, on the Governance and Audit Committee, as the Council's Member Champion for Risk until the end of the civic year 2024/25;
- 3) Note the expectations of Member Champions as set out in the current adopted role description- attached at Appendix A .

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Member Champions have no specific powers. Constitutionally it is the responsibility of the Policy Committee within which the Member Champion area sits, to make appointments. However Council can undertake any powers it has delegated to Committees. Given these two Champions are linked to wider best practice or adopted covenants (Armed Forces) Council are asked to make these two appointments now, whilst allowing time for further consideration to be given to the wider Member Champion roles the Administration may wish to adopt. Further appointments will be made by the relevant Policy Committees in due course.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial :

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 and any such claims will be contained within the current revenue budget.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

No implications

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

No implications

Data Protection Implications :

No implications

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

No implications

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

No implications

Health Implications:

No implications

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

Member Champions Report – 20 March 2018 – Prosperous Communities
Member Champions Report – 17 April 2018 – Governance and Audit Committee
Member Champions Report – 17 July 2019 - Prosperous Communities

Risk Assessment :

None

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 The Role of Member Champions was last reviewed in May 2018 with a role description adopted – Appendix A
- 1.2 The number of Member Champions appointed and Champion Areas was last dealt with in May 2019.
- 1.3 It is the Administration who determine the Champion areas and the number of Champions but within an agreed set of principles namely: -
 - 1) To not nominate Member Champions for areas where a committee Chair or Vice-Chair already has responsibility.
 - 2) That Areas for which Member Champions are responsible should be reviewed every two years*.
 - 3) Member Champions should submit updates of their work to the West Lindsey newsletter

** No Review undertaken in 2021*

2 Appointments to be Made by Council

- 2.1 Responsibility for appointing Champions sits within the remit of the relevant Policy Committee under which the Member Champion Area sits. However, Council can undertake any power it has delegated to its Committees.
- 2.2 There are two Champion roles which are linked to wider best practice or adopted covenants and to which it would be prudent to make appointments at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.3 These being the Risk Champion (linked to the work of Audit Committees) and the Armed Forces Champion – as part of our covenant commitment.
- 2.4 Council are being asked to make these two Member Champion appointments now, whilst allowing time for further consideration to be given to the wider Member Champion Areas to which the Administration may wish to appoint.
- 2.5 Any further appointments would be dealt with by way of a report to the relevant Policy Committee(s) in due course.
- 2.6 **For information, the Champion Areas last appointed to were as follows:**

Member Champion Areas
Heritage and Tourism
Young People/Skills
Community Transport / Public Rights of Way / Rural Issues
Safeguarding/Mental Health / Wellbeing
Neighbourhood Planning and Localism
Armed Forces

Public Transport
Environment and Climate Change
Risk

3. Recommendation

Council are asked to: -

- 1) appoint Councillor Sebastian Hague as the Council's Member Champion for Armed Forces until the end of the civic year 2024/25;
- 2) appoint Mrs Alison Adams, lay Independent Member, on the Governance and Audit Committee, as the Council's Member Champion for Risk until the end of the civic year 2024/25;
- 3) Note the expectations of Member Champions as set out in the current adopted role description- attached at Appendix A .

Appendix A

Member Champion Role Description

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Member Champions are Councillors who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business and activities. The main responsibility of each Member Champion is to encourage communications and positive action over the issue they represent.

2. Role of Member Champions

- 2.1 All Member Champions will have an allocated area of responsibility agreed at the first relevant Policy committee on a two year basis
- 2.2 All Member Champions must act reasonably in their role and recognise and work within the Political management and working arrangements adopted by the Council. As such the Member Champion must work with and communicate regularly with the relevant Committee chairs
- 2.3 A Member champion cannot make decisions and must not commit the Council in any way or in a manner that could be interpreted as being contrary to established policy and practice. They may however confirm a position as stated in a published policy.

3 Leader and Committee Chairs

- 3.1 The Leader and Chairs of Policy Committees will:
- a) Acknowledge the right of member Champions to be consulted on matters relating to their area of interest
 - b) Take full account of any views offered by the Member Champions prior to making decisions relating to the their area of interest
 - c) Co-operate with member Champions in the formulation of action plans they have developed with lead officers
 - d) Consider nominating champions to represent the Council at relevant conferences/seminar on the subject matter of the member's interest

4. Allowances

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Member Champions can, if they wish, claim dependant carers', travelling and subsistence expenses at a meeting or event deemed relevant to the appointed Member Champion position.

5. Terms

- 5.1 In year changes and additions (where necessary, and after consultation with either of the Policy Chairs) to be appointed at the next available relevant policy committee.

6. Roles of Champions

- To represent their area of interest both within and outside the Council in line with Council policy.
- To contribute to the review and development of policies pertaining to their area of interest
- To challenge and question the Council, the Leader and the Policy Committees on issues relevant to their area of responsibility
- To act as a catalyst for change and improvement in service delivery
- To monitor the forward plan and seek information from the Leader, Committee Chairs and Officers about forthcoming business and exert influence on behalf of the interest
- To keep councillors of all parties up to date with activities in relevant to the area of interest
- To network with member champions from other local authorities with the same interest to keep up to date with current developments
- To provide positive support and on occasions constructive challenge to officers in driving forward the Council agenda on relevant issues
- To act as the Council's representative on relevant external bodies where appointed to by the Council.