

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 17 September 2019

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Appointment of Member Champions

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? as soon as possible

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Member champions are elected members who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business. The main responsibility of each member champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Local Protocol on Member Champions it is proposed to appoint six Member Champions for the next four years to champion key aspects of the Council's work in respect of the following areas:
 - a) Armed Forces;
 - b) Foster Carers;
 - c) Climate Change;
 - d) Volunteering;
 - e) Domestic abuse and sexual violence; and
 - f) Mental health and wellbeing (the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health, plus one other member).
- 1.3 Following the Elected Mayor's decision on 4 March 2019, when the Council signed up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health, two elected members were appointed as Mental Health Champions registered with the Centre for Mental Health. It is therefore proposed that two Councillors will be appointed as Mental Health and Wellbeing Champions, one being the Cabinet Member responsible for Health and Wellbeing (e.g. Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health), plus one other non-Cabinet Member. This supports the good practice recommended by Public Health England to have two or more champions in this role.
- 1.4 This will enhance the work already carried out by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Members and recognises the key importance to the Council of these specific areas of work.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

- 2.1 To enable Member Champions to be appointed for the current four year term of office.
 - 2.2 There are no financial commitments in respect of the proposals contained in this report.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) that the following Member Champions be appointed until May 2023 with their job description as set out in Annex 1 to Appendix 1 to the submitted report:
 - a) Armed Forces;
 - b) Foster Carers;
 - c) Climate Change;
 - d) Volunteering;
 - e) Domestic abuse and sexual violence; and
 - f) Mental health and wellbeing.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Local Protocol on Member Champions

Background Documents

None