

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

30 MAY 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED MEMBER CHAMPIONS

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval for the appointment of Elected Member Champions.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1 The report supports all of the Corporate Priorities:
1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
 2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Elected Member Champions are appointed to provide a voice for traditionally underrepresented groups, or issues which need to be kept at the forefront of council business although they may not be the responsibility of any individual or committee.
- 3.2 Elected Member Champions, are Elected Members who in addition to their other Council responsibilities make sure that the issue or group that they are championing are taken into account when council policy is being developed and decisions are made. Elected Members act as champions in areas such as children and young people, equalities, older people, health improvement and anti-poverty.
- 3.3 There is a statutory role for a lead member of children's and young people's services with a responsibility for over-seeing the arrangements made under sections 25 and 26 of the Children Act 2004.
- 3.4 Guidance on undertaking the role with regard to the subject knowledge that

members need is sometimes available from the outside bodies associated with the issue being championed for example the toolkit for older peoples' champions from the Local Government Association (LGA). The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) also support Local Authorities to develop role descriptions for Elected Members appointed to specific roles.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 With the recent changes that have occurred to Cabinet and to the Cabinet Member portfolios a review of the Elected Member Champions has been undertaken. The following Champions have previously been appointed:

- Anti-Poverty Champion
- Armed Forces Champion
- Children & Young Peoples Champion
- Diversity Champion
- Domestic Abuse Champion
- Equalities Champion
- Health & Safety Champion
- Mental Health Champion

4.2 The following Champions roles have been identified for possible appointment:

- Carers Champion
- Older Peoples Champion
- Young Carers Champion

4.3 It is proposed that appointments to Champion roles be aligned with the revised Cabinet Portfolios to ensure that the group or organisation that they are championing can be taken into account during the decision making process.

4.4 The existing Champion roles are proposed to be aligned to the Cabinet portfolios as follows:

Portfolio	Champion
Leader	Counter Terrorism
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Resources	Health & Safety
Social Services and Early Help	Older People's Carers Children & Young People's
Communities	Culture Mental Health Armed Forces Domestic Abuse
Wellbeing and Future Generations	Equality Diversity Anti-Poverty Children's play opportunities Young Carers Welsh Language Sustainability
Education and Regeneration	Biodiversity

- 4.5 Each of the Elected Member Champions should be provided with a relevant role description which identifies their roles and responsibilities. However, role descriptions do not currently exist for all of these champions' roles therefore the Head of Democratic Services will work with each Champion, the WLGA and the respective groups to develop appropriate roles descriptions.
- 4.6 Until the specific role descriptions are developed it is proposed to use the generic Champions role description approved by Council in April 2013 and as shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**
- 6.1 None
- 6. Equality Impact Assessment**
- 6.1 There are no equalities impact issues arising from this report.
- 7. Financial Implications.**
- 7.1 There are no financial implications.
- 8. Recommendation.**
- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to appoint the Champion roles as shown in paragraph 4.4 above.

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Background documents
None.

(Champion Title(s)) Member Champion

Role Description

1. Accountabilities

- To Full Council/Cabinet

2. Role Purpose and Activities

- **Within the Council**
 - To promote the interest being championed within the Council's corporate and service priorities
 - To promote the needs of the client group represented in the interest to the decision makers within the council
 - To work with the decision makers in the Council to establish strategies/policies/work plans connected with the interest
 - To maintain an awareness of all matters connected with the interest
 - To contribute to good practice and the continuous improvement of services and functions related to the interest
 - To engage with members in matters related to the interest such as attending Overview and Scrutiny/Cabinet /Full Council meetings etc.
 - Raising awareness of and taking a lead role in the development of all members and officers in relation to the interest
- **In the Community**
 - To raise the profile of the interest in the community
 - To engage with citizens and community groups in matters related to the interest
 - To lead and support local initiatives related to the interest

3. Values

To be committed to and demonstrate the following values in public office:

- Openness and transparency
- Honesty and integrity
- Tolerance and respect
- Equality and fairness
- Appreciation of cultural difference
- Sustainability
- Inclusive leadership
- Consensus building