

<u>BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u>	
Report to	The Chair and Members of the Democratic Services Committee
Report Subject	Review and Proposals for the Role of Member Champions
Report Author	Head of Policy and Performance
Report date	23rd November 2015
Directorate	Corporate services and Strategy
Portfolio	Corporate Services
Date of meeting	16th December 2015
Date signed off by Monitoring Officer	N/A
Date signed off by Section 151 Officer	N/A
Date signed off by Chair	4th December 2015
Key words	Member champion roles, review, support arrangements.

Report Information Summary

1.	Purpose of Report*
1.1	To present proposals following a review of the role of Member Champions to the Democratic Services Committee prior to the report being presented to Council.
2.	Scope of the Report*
2.1	The report gives an overview of the rationale for undertaking a review of the existing number and scope of Member champion roles. It sets out proposals for consideration which include rationalising the current number of champion roles and strengthening the Member champion arrangements.
3.	Recommendation/s for Consideration*
3.1	The Democratic Services Committee consider the report and recommend an option from section two to be presented to Council for approval.

Why this topic is a priority for the Council?*					
<i>Report author to identify links to the main corporate strategies.</i>					
Single Integrated Plan (SIP)	Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP)	Performance Management Improvement Framework (PMIF)	Operating Model	Transforming Blaenau Gwent (TBG Programme)	Other (please state)
X	X			X	The constitution

Reporting Pathway*							
<i>Report author to identify proposed reporting pathway. (To include dates where possible)</i>							
Directorate Management Team (DMT)	Corporate Management Team (CMT)	Audit	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny	Executive	Council	Other (please state)
26/11/15	1/12/15		16/12/15			Jan 2016	

***Denotes mandatory section**

Main Report

1.	Background and Context*
1.1	Members are appointed to champion roles at the Annual General Meeting of the Council.
1.2	Due to rise of requests (in the main from Directorates) being made to appoint Member champions to an increasingly wide variety of subject areas, it is timely to review both the number and scope of current Member champions and consider strengthening the supporting arrangements.
1.3	The demand on Members time needs to be carefully managed to support them in undertaking the range of duties within their increasingly complex roles. The review findings highlighted that some Members were appointed to a large number of champion roles, which may not be considered the most sustainable option moving forward.
1.4	In addition, the establishment and remit of certain committees within the democratic process e.g. Democratic Services Committee needs to be considered, as this may remove the requirement for some existing champion roles e.g. those covering Member development and scrutiny.
1.5	There also needs to be consideration of the approach to the appointment of Member champions. Role descriptions are contained within the constitution, arrangements could be strengthened further as set out in option one in paragraph 2.
1.6	Information from the initial review has been used to develop options that look to support the effectiveness of Members appointed to undertake a champion role by; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationalising the number of current member champions• Providing an overview of the scope of roles and where relevant merging current champion roles; and• Considering the scope of champion roles in relation to emerging legislation and the Transforming Blaenau Gwent programme.

2. Options for Consideration (to be completed in every case where relevant to the report topic and information)

2.1 **Option One** (preferred option)

(i) Reduce the current number of Member champion roles from 18 to 8 and better align the roles to both the National Well Being goals set out in the Well Being for Future Generations legislation and the Transforming Blaenau Gwent Programme; and

(ii) Undertake further work to strengthen the supporting arrangements by establishing;

- Clear scopes for each role which would enhance the existing role purpose and activities set out in the constitution
- Further clarity on how the champion role can support and inter relates to Member roles such as the Executive; and
- A criteria for assessing future requests for Member champions.

Proposed Member champion roles under option one;

Member Champion Role	Broad Scope including links to current roles*
Community Safety	Domestic abuse*, substance misuse Anti social behaviour
Children	Scope to be confirmed
Older Persons	Scope to be confirmed
Equalities and Diversity	9 protected characteristics (includes sensory impairment*) Fair trade*
Vulnerable groups	Carers*, homelessness* anti poverty*
Transforming Blaenau Gwent programme	Promoting the principles of the programme, procurement*, digital inclusion* cultural change* staff well being*
Armed Forces	Engagement with armed forces representatives and attendance at events
Bio diversity	Environmental issues

(Note: The Well Being goals for Wales are Prosperous; Resilient; Healthier; More equal; Cohesive communities; Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and globally responsible.)

	<p>The National Parks Authority has recently reviewed its champion role to align to the Well Being of Future Generations Act.</p> <p>Option Two</p> <p>Retain the current 18 Member champion roles but place a maximum number to the amount of champion roles that an individual Member can be appointed to and strengthen the support arrangements.</p> <p>Option Three</p> <p>Retain the current 18 Member roles and current arrangements with no limit to how many an individual Member may be appointed to.</p> <p>Option Four</p> <p>Do not continue with appointments to Member champion roles.</p>
--	--

3.	Performance Evidence and Information*
-----------	--

3.1	Current Member champion roles;		
	Role	Previous Designation	Date Established / source
	Member Champion for Community Safety	Executive Member Corporate services and strategy	this role has been in existence prior to 2005
	Member Champion for Procurement	Executive Member Financial Management & Strategy	this role has been in existence prior to 2005
	Member Champion for Scrutiny	Scrutiny Chair	this role has been in existence prior to 2005
	Member Champion for Children	Executive Member Social Services Children & Active Living	this role has been in existence prior to 2005
	Member Champion for Older Persons	Executive Member Social Services Adult Services	this role has been in existence prior to 2005

Member Champion for Equalities & Diversity	Executive Member Social Services Adult Services	Amended to include diversity 2014
Member Champion for Carers	Executive Member Social Services Adult Services	request received from Social Services Directorate
Member Champion for Corporate Health Standard & Improvement	Executive Member Social services Children & Active Living	appointment made following a request from Corporate Health
Member Champion for Visual Impairment	Executive Member Social Services Adult Services	request received from Wales Council for the Blind
Member Champion for Homelessness	Executive Member Social Services Adult Services	request received from Social Services Directorate
Member Champion for Member Support & Development	Deputy Leader/Executive Business Manager	Linked to Member Support and Development Network
Fair trade Champion	Councillor appointment	Linked to Fair trade campaign
Biodiversity Champion	Executive Member Waste Management & the Environment	request received from Environment and Regeneration Directorate
Armed Forces Champion	Councillor appointment	Approved in February 2013 linked to Welsh Government directive
Anti-Poverty Champion –	Executive Member Social Services Children & Active Living	Approved in March 2013
Digital Inclusion Champion	Councillor appointment	Approved in March 2013
Member Champion for Cultural Change	Deputy Leader/Executive Business Manager	New appointment

	Domestic Abuse Champion	Executive Member Social Services Adult Services	New appointment
4.	Impact Assessment Against Proposals / Options*		
4.1	Option one supports the better alignment of Member champion roles to the Well Being goals for Wales as part of the Well Being for Future Generations Act. It looks to the longer term by proposing a more sustainable approach to the appointment of champions. The inclusion of an Equalities and Diversity champion is aimed to provide a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristics under equality legislation.		
5.	Financial Implications*		
5.1	There are implications relating to undertaking the role of Member champion, for example the council may be requested to host an event, or there may be a request for a Member to attend an event. These implications and requests will need to be assessed on an individual basis and managed within existing budget.		
6.	Risk Implications*		
6.1	There is a potential risk to sustainability due to capacity if individual Members continue to be appointed to cover a range of champion roles. There is also a risk that with such a high level of demand on some individuals, the input that could be given to the role may be compromised.		
6.2	There is also a potential element of reputational risk to the Council if Member champion roles are discontinued, or not used to best effect.		
7.	Staffing/Workforce Development Implications*		
7.1	There is a staff implication in relation to the provision of adequate support, advice and guidance to Members undertaking a champion role. To mitigate this, opportunities via existing Members training and support arrangements need to be maximised.		

8.	Conclusion*
8.1	The role of Member champion is set out in the Constitution. The review and option to rationalise the number of champions and better align the roles to national legislation and the Transforming Blaenau Gwent programme is considered timely. A proposal to undertake further work to strengthen supporting arrangements to enable Members to continue to fulfil the role of champion form part of the proposed approach.

***Denotes mandatory section**