

COUNCIL:

25 SEPTEMBER 2014

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY CLERK & MONITORING
OFFICER**

**NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES VACANCIES & MEMBER
CHAMPION**

AGENDA ITEM: 16

Reason for this Report

1. To receive nominations from party groups to current Committee vacancies in accordance with the allocation of seats as agreed by Council at its Annual Meeting on 29 May 2014.
2. To appoint to the vacant role of Member Champion for Diversity and Equalities in accordance with the decision of Full Council on 24 July 2014 (Min No 59) to appoint three Member Champions.

Issues

Committee Vacancies

3. Table 1 below sets out the current Member vacancies on Committees to be filled at this meeting in order to ensure good governance of the Committee process.

4. **Table 1 - Current Vacancies**

Committee	Vacancy	Comment
Licensing Committee	Labour	Vacancy
Public Protection	Labour	Vacancy

Committee	Vacancy	Comment
Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	2 x Labour 2 x Liberal Democrat 1 x Conservative or Independent	NOTE: Open to nominations who are not Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.
Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee	Labour Liberal Democrat	To replace Cllr Ali Ahmed To replace Cllr Burfoot
Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee	Labour	To replace Cllr Corria
Environmental Scrutiny Committee	Labour	To replace Cllr Parry
Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee	Labour	To replace Cllr Knight
Health & Safety Advisory Group	1 Liberal Democrat 1 Conservative	
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	1 Labour	To replace Chris Davis

5. Political Groups have been asked to provide formal notification of nominations to the Proper Officer for inclusion on the amendment sheet.

Member Champion

6. 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.
7. Individual Cabinet Members will also, due to their Portfolio responsibilities, have a Champion role, as well as certain Committee Chairs - for example, the Chair of Democratic Services is the Member Development Champion for the Council.
8. The Report of the Expert Group on Diversity in Local Government "On Balance: Diversifying Democracy in Local Government in Wales" published earlier this year, highlighted the importance of Member Champions with a particular role to encourage the training and development of Councillors. The report recommended that Member Champions in each Council should be encouraged to play an external

role in encouraging greater participation especially among women in local government.

9. The initial establishment and appointments to the three Champions for Diversity and Equality; Community Food Growing; and Cycling and Sustainable Transport roles reflected the priorities or objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and the role of working effectively with the political management and executive working arrangements currently in place in the Council.
10. Each role is set in the context of the specific interest or theme and may include the following functions: -
 - To provide a focus on their specific issues and make the authority aware of good practice;
 - To ask questions about performance and resourcing for the area;
 - To engage with external bodies who work in the area;
 - To engage with community groups with an interest / stake in the area;
 - To engage internally with, and complement the work of, the Cabinet Member and lead officers in relation to the role;
 - To engage internally with the scrutiny function;
 - To report action to other Councillors via relevant Committee and Council meetings; other relevant bodies; or electronically.
11. The Champions will have no decision making powers; may not commit the Council to any course of action; or any Council resources; and do not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance.
12. It is important to ensure that there are clearly drawn lines of distinction between individual Cabinet Member responsibilities and those of Member Champions to ensure the work of both Members are complementary and in the wider interests of the Council, its communities and citizens. Each of the Champions will have a specific individual role description to ensure there is a clearly understood distinction between Cabinet Member roles and responsibilities and those of Member Champions.

Legal Implications

13. Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 lay down requirements designed to ensure that there is political balance on Committees (this requirement does not apply to a Standards Committee).
14. All the relevant legal provisions are set out in the body of the report.

Financial Implications

15. The relevant financial provisions are set out in the body of the report. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council

- (1) appoint Councillor Cecilia Love as Member Champion for Diversity and Equalities;
- (2) approve the nominations received to the vacancies on Committees as set out on the amendment sheet.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
19 September 2014