

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SERVICES**

---

**MEMBER CHAMPIONS ANNUAL REPORTS**

---

**Reason for the Report**

1. To receive annual reports from the Member Champion for Cycling and Sustainable Transport and the Member Champion for Community Food Growing, who were appointed into their role at Council 24 July 2014 and are still acting as Member Champions.
2. To receive an initial report from the Member Champion for Equalities and Diversity, who was appointed in September 2014 and completed part of a full year in role, and update Members on this Champion role.

**Background**

3. 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.
4. The Council has for some time allocated Member Champion roles to individual Council Members. Individual Cabinet Members will, due to their Portfolio responsibilities, often 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. Occasionally a community or third sector organisation has sought the Council's support in allocating informal responsibility for an issue to a Council Member.
5. In 2014 the Expert Group on Diversity in Local Government in Wales chaired by Professor Laura McAllister published its report: "On Balance: Diversifying Democracy in Local Government in Wales", highlighted the importance of Member Diversity Champions with a particular role to encourage the training and development of Councillors. The report recommended that Member Diversity Champions in each Council should be encouraged to play an external role in encouraging greater participation, especially among women in local government. Since publication of the report three Members of the Council have supported the Project by mentoring Cardiff residents who are interested in taking up a career in politics.
6. In June 2014, the Council Leader invited expressions of interest from Councillors in taking up a role as Member Champion. Following consultation

with all Members, three areas were identified as appropriate for the initial establishment of Member Champions, and were confirmed at Full Council on 24 July 2014. These were the Member Champions for Diversity and Equality (allocated to Councillor Cecelia Love in September 2014); Community Food Growing (allocated to Councillor Gareth Holden in July 2014); and Cycling and Sustainable Transport (allocated to Councillor Iona Gordon in July 2014).

7. For the initial year of operation, each Champion was asked to focus on their specific area of interest, and make the Council aware of good practice; ask questions about performance and resourcing for the area; engage with relevant external bodies and community groups with an interest / stake in the area; and engage internally with, and complement the work of, the Cabinet Member, the Scrutiny function and lead officers in relation to the role.
8. It was agreed that the Champions would have no decision making powers or the power to commit the Council to any course of action or the deployment of Council resources. They would not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance. They would report annually to Full Council on their work.

## Issues

9. During the past year the Member Champions have been carrying out their respective roles. Councillors Iona Gordon and Gareth Holden, who still retain their Champion roles, have summarised their first year in post at **Appendices A and B**, indicating their key successes and suggestions for the initiative moving forward. The report from Councillor Holden also includes a letter from Councillor Rod McKerlich on behalf of Members of the Council's Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee, thanking Councillor Holden for his championship of this agenda. It is evident that both Members have carried out their work with determination and skill.
10. Former Councillor Cecelia Love commenced her Member Champion role for Diversity and Equality, attending meetings of the Diversity in Democracy Project and engaging with Council staff. Her initial Report is set out at **Appendix C**. On her resignation from the post, Councillor Ali Ahmed was appointed at Full Council in June 2015, and is actively progressing the role.
11. The reports of Councillors Holden and Gordon identify some learning points for the Council to further develop the Champion role and optimise the success both of the overall initiative and the work of individual Champions.
12. It is proposed that the Council approve the continuation of these Champion Roles and that the Member Champions be invited to provide further Annual Reports to Full Council each year.
13. In August 2015, the Welsh Local Government Association published its Framework for Member Role Descriptions and Person Specifications. Amongst the roles described in this document was that of Member Champion, which is attached as **Appendix D**. It sets out the role both within the Council and in the community, and also identifies a number of competencies with a person

specification to support Members in fulfilling their role. It is proposed that this Council formally adopt the role description for Member Champion to further guide our practice in this area.

### **Legal Implications**

14. All the relevant legal provisions are set out in the body of the report.

### **Financial Implications**

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is recommended to:

- (1) acknowledge the good work undertaken by Member Champions set out in **Appendices A, B and C**, thank the Champions themselves and the officers and communities who have supported their work;
- (2) agree to continue the Member Champion Initiative with these three roles;
- (3) adopt the WLGA's role description and Person Specification for Member Champions set out at **Appendix D**;
- (4) agree to receive further annual reports from Member Champions;
- (5) propose further areas suitable for a Member Champion to be appointed.

**MARIE ROSENTHAL**  
**Director of Governance & Legal Services**  
**15 October 2015**