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

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**MEMBER CHAMPIONS ANNUAL REPORTS**

**Reason for the Report**

1. To receive the second Annual Reports from the Member Champion for Equalities and Diversity; the Member Champion for Community Food Growing; and the Member Champion Cycling and Sustainable Transport appointed by Council in July 2014 and September 2015.

**Background**

2. Member Champions are Elected Members who, in addition to their other Council responsibilities, ensure that the issues or groups that they are championing are taken into account when Council policy is being developed and decisions are made.
3. The Council has for some time allocated Member Champion roles to individual Council Members. Individual Cabinet Members will, due to their portfolio responsibilities, have a related 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.
4. 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 a number of Elected Members have supported the project by mentoring Cardiff residents who are interested in taking up a career in politics.
5. In their first year each Member Champion focused on their area of interest; looked at good practice; asked questions about performance and resourcing for the area; engage with relevant external bodies and community groups with an interest or 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.

6. The Council on 22 October 2015 adopted the Welsh Local Government Association published Role Descriptions for a Member Champion, which set out details of the role both within the Council and in the community, and also identifies a number of competencies in a person specification that would support the Member in fulfilling their role.
7. 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**

8. During the past year the Member Champions have been carrying out their respective roles. Attached as **Appendices A, B and C** are the Annual Reports setting out activities, successes and suggestions for the future work to optimise the impact on the overall subject area and the work of individual Champions.
9. It is proposed that the Council approve the continuation of the three designated Member Champion Roles until the end of this municipal year.

### **Legal Implications**

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

### **Financial Implications**

11. 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) receive and acknowledge the good work undertaken by Member Champions as set out in their Annual Reports; thank the Member Champions and the officers and communities who have supported their work;
- (2) agree to continue the Member Champion Initiative with these three roles until the end of this Municipal year.

### **DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance & Legal Services**

**14 October 2016**

Background Papers

Welsh Local Government Association published its Framework for Member Role Descriptions and Person Specifications – August 2015