
ELECTED MEMBER CHAMPIONS' ROLES AND REMITS

Report by Acting Chief Executive

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

29 September 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Elected Member Champions' roles and remits and also the appointment of two new Champions – for Creative Industries and Mental Health.**
- 1.2 At its meeting on 26 May 2022, Scottish Borders Council appointed Elected Members to 11 Champions roles. To provide clarity for the Councillors undertaking a Champion role, officers were asked to provide further details on their remit.
- 1.3 Details of roles and remits for each Champion are provided in the Appendix to this report. It is intended that the Champions will work to ensure that the voices of those they are supporting will be heard; that they will raise awareness of the challenges facing their particular sector; that they will help shape priorities, launch new initiatives, participate in focus groups, attend local and national meetings as appropriate, and undertake any other relevant activities. The role of the Champion is apolitical with a focus on representing those in their particular sector. It is also proposed that the Champions meet as a minimum on a six monthly basis to discuss their respective areas of interest and update each other on their activities.
- 1.4 To avoid confusion, it is further proposed that the title of some of the Champions roles appointed on 26 May are now changed to better reflect the roles. The report also asks Council to appoint two new Champions to promote the Creative Industries and Mental Health.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- (a) approves the change in titles of the following Champions –**
 - (i) Opportunities for Young People Champion changed to Employment Opportunities Champion**
 - (ii) Education & Young People Champion changed to Young People's Champion;**

- (iii) Deaf Community Champion changed to Deaf People's Champion;**
 - (iv) Dementia Champion changed to People Living with Dementia Champion; and**
 - (v) Wellbeing & Safety Champion changed to Safety Champion;**
- (b) approves the Elected Member Champions' roles and remits as detailed in the Appendix to this report;**
- (c) appoints a new Creative Industries Champion and a new Champion for Mental Health; and**
- (d) agrees that the Elected Members Champions meet as a minimum on a six monthly basis to discuss their respective areas of interest and update each other on their activities.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 At its meeting held on 26 May 2022, Scottish Borders Council appointed the following Elected Members as Champions:

- Cllr John Greenwell – Champion for Armed Forces & Veterans
- Cllr James Anderson – Champion for Opportunities for Young People
- Cllr Annette Smart – Champion for Education & Young People
- Cllr Elaine Thornton-Nicol – Champion for the Deaf Community
- Cllr Elaine Thornton-Nicol – Champion for Dementia
- Cllr Neil Mackinnon – Champion for Energy Efficiency
- Cllr Mark Rowley – Champion for Equalities
- Cllr Pam Brown – Champion for Wellbeing & Safety
- Cllr Aileen Orr – Champion for Learning & Physical Disabilities
- Cllr Elaine Thornton-Nicol – Champion for Older People
- Cllr Viv Thomson – Champion for the Voluntary Sector

3.2 To provide clarity for the Councillors undertaking a Champion role, officers were asked to provide further details on their remit.

4 CHAMPIONS' ROLES AND REMITS

4.1 Details of roles and remits for each Champion are provided in the Appendix to this report. It is intended that the Champions will work to ensure that the voices of those they are supporting will be heard; that they will raise awareness of the challenges facing their particular sector; that they will help shape priorities, launch new initiatives, participate in focus groups, attend local and national meetings as appropriate, and undertake any other relevant activities. The role of the Champion is apolitical with a focus on representing those in their particular sector. It is also proposed that the Champions meet as a minimum on a six monthly basis to discuss their respective areas of interest and update each other on their activities.

4.2 To avoid confusion, it is further proposed that the title of some of the Champions roles appointed on 26 May are now changed to better reflect the roles. Those Councillors appointed to these roles on 26 May will continue as Champions. The proposed changes to titles are:

- Opportunities for Young People Champion changed to Employment Opportunities Champion (Cllr Anderson);
- Education & Young People Champion changed to Young People's Champion (Cllr Smart);
- Deaf Community Champion changed to Deaf People's Champion (Cllr Thornton-Nicol);
- Dementia Champion changed to People Living with Dementia Champion (Cllr Thornton-Nicol); and
- Wellbeing & Safety Champion changed to Safety Champion (Cllr Brown).

4.3 It is also proposed that Scottish Borders Council introduces two additional Elected Member Champion roles, one for the Creative Industries and one for Mental Health. The role and remit for each of the new Champion roles are included in the Appendix.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a reputational risk to the Council if the Elected Members' Champions are not provided with clarity on their role and remit. The role has been assigned as apolitical, as each Champion will work across the Council and the wider Borders on the issues that affect those in their particular sphere.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

No Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Elected Members' Champions roles and remits as it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality issues.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

The work of the Elected Members' Champions should impact on a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: -

- Goal 1 and 2 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere; end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition) – encourage local action; change to service provision; encourage & support community enterprise.
- Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all potential) – reach out to vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities to ensure access to education and training to meet their needs.
- Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) – ensure non-discriminatory service provision to citizens; mainstream gender equality.
- Goal 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) – identify gaps in access to affordable energy, particularly to vulnerable groups; identify areas for improvement for transport and carbon emissions.
- Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) – promote public transport; promote re-use and recycling; take action to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) – raise awareness of climate change at local level.
- Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) – encourage local action & decision making; become more responsive to communities.

5.5 Climate Change

It is anticipated that some of the work by the Elected Member Champions will help identify opportunities to mitigate climate change impacts.

5.6 Rural Proofing

There is no specific impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change) and Corporate Communications have been consulted during the drafting of this paper.

Approved by

David Robertson

Acting Chief Executive

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Background Papers: Nil

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