

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 28 June 2022

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Appointment of Council Champions

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for the appointment of Council Champions for Enterprise, Young People, Older People and Armed Forces and Veterans.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of Champions as set out in paragraph 3.3.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In common with a number of other local authorities, the Administration wishes to appoint Members to act as Champions for specific sections of the community or ranges of activities. In particular, these Champions will be appointed in respect of the following:

- Enterprise
- Young People
- Older People
- Armed Forces and Veterans

- 3.2 The role of Champions is primarily to act as a positive focus for the local community at Elected Member level in respect of their area of responsibility so as to make sure that full consideration is given to the impact of Council activities and decisions upon the section of community or range of activities. A full role profile for the Champions setting out their key duties and responsibilities is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. For the avoidance of doubt, the Champions will have no

specific decision-making powers and will primarily act as advocates for their relevant area within the Council's existing governance framework.

3.3 It is proposed that the following Members be appointed to the roles of Champions:

- Enterprise – Cllr Bennett
- Young People – Cllr Ritchie
- Older People – Cllr McFarlane
- Armed Forces and Veterans – Cllr McMillan

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – None

6.2 Personnel – None

6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

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Appendix 1

Champions Role Profile

The purpose of the Champion is to:

- act as a positive focus for the local community at Elected Member level in respect of the relevant section of the community or range of activities designated by the Council so as to make sure that full consideration is given to the impact of Council activities and decisions upon the section of community or range of activities

The key duties and responsibilities of the Champion are to:

- make contact with local organisations concerned with the designated section of the community or range of activities and to establish effective and regular consultation arrangements with those organisations
- represent the views of such organisations to officers and the Council on all relevant aspects of the Council's activities
- act as an advocate on behalf of the relevant section of the community or range of activities within the Council as an organisation and to the wider community
- become familiar with the needs and priorities of the relevant section of the community or range of activities concerned and to weigh up interests expressed in order to provide sound advice on the implications of alternative courses of action
- feedback decisions of the Council and to explain the Council's position on specific issues of concern to relevant organisations and to individuals involved
- prepare an annual report on work undertaken over each year for consideration by the Council

The key skills required of the Champion are:

- the ability to foster cross-party co-operation and to engage with relevant outside groups and officers
- the ability to campaign with enthusiasm and persistence on behalf of their relevant section of community
- good communication skills
- good media skills