

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 23 August 2022

**BY:** Executive Director for Council Resources

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Council Champions

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the appointment of a Council Champion for the Voluntary Sector.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of a Voluntary Sector Champion as set out in paragraph 3.3.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting in June 2022, the Council appointed a number of Members to act as Champions for specific sections of the community or ranges of activities. It is now proposed to appoint a further Champion in respect of the Voluntary Sector.
- 3.2 A role profile for the Champion setting out their key duties and responsibilities is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. For the avoidance of doubt, the Champion will have no specific decision-making powers and will primarily act as an advocate for the voluntary sector within the Council's existing governance framework.
- 3.3 It is proposed that Councillor Colin McGinn be appointed to the role of Voluntary Sector Champion.

## **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