

## **Member Champions - Role Description**

### **1. Purpose of Member Champions**

1.1. The main purpose of Member Champions is to:

- 1.1.1. promote the cause for which they are a champion;
- 1.1.2. support the work of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.

1.2. Member Champions achieve this through:

- 1.2.1. being outward-facing, enthusiastic, and focused on raising the profile of the area they champion;
- 1.2.2. developing in-depth knowledge and understanding of the issue(s) they Champion. using that knowledge to support the relevant Committee Chair(s) and Vice Chair(s);
- 1.2.3. represent their area both within and outside the Council in line with Council policy;
- 1.2.4. engaging relevant stakeholders to include them in the Council's work;
- 1.2.5. acting as an advocate or spokesperson for the Council's business and activities;
- 1.2.6. providing positive support and on occasions constructive challenge to officers in driving forward the Council agenda on relevant issues;
- 1.2.7. acting as the Council's representative on relevant external bodies where appointed to by the Council;
- 1.2.8. encouraging communications and positive action over the issue(s) they represent.

### **2. Role of Member Champions**

2.1. All Member Champions will have an allocated area of responsibility agreed at the Annual meeting.

2.2. Member Champions are aligned to the themes of the Future 40 Vision:

- Green & Vibrant
- Safe & well

- Opportunity & Prosperity
- Smart & Connected
- Cultural & Creative
- Effective Council

2.3 In addition, there is an Armed Forces Champion.

2.4 All Member Champions must act reasonably in their role and recognise and work to the agreed priorities and working practices adopted by the Council. As such the Member Champion must work with and communicate regularly with the relevant Committee Chair(s).

2.5 A Member Champion cannot make decisions and must not commit the Council in any way or in a manner that could be interpreted as being contrary to established policy and practice. They may however confirm a position as stated in a published policy.

### **3. Conditions of being a Member Champion**

3.1. A Member Champion can be any member of the Council who is not a Committee Chair.

3.2. If a Member Champion is a member of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and it conducts a review of the area they champion, they must declare a non-pecuniary interest.

3.3. A Member Champion may be called to provide information to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and would be expected to attend as requested.

### **4. Committee Chairs**

4.1. The Chair of Committees will:

- 4.1.1. acknowledge the right of Member Champions to be consulted on matters relating to their area of interest;

- 4.1.2. take full account of any views offered by the Member Champions prior to making decisions relating to their area of interest;
- 4.1.3. co-operate with Member Champions in the formulation of action plans that have been developed with lead officers;
- 4.1.4. consider nominating Champions to represent the Council at relevant conferences/seminar on the subject matter of the Member's interest in accordance with 2.1 above.

## **5. Allowances**

- 5.1. Member Champions are not entitled to receive a Special Responsibility Allowances.
- 5.2. Any change to this position would require recommendation by an Independent Remuneration Panel and the approval of Full Council.

## **6. Term**

- 6.1. A Member Champion will normally be expected to serve for a minimum 2-year term. This may be extended at the discretion of the Chair of the Majority Group and relevant Policy Committee Chair.
- 6.2. In year changes and additions (where necessary, and after consultation with the Chair of the Majority Group and relevant Policy Committee Chair) to be appointed at the next available relevant policy committee.