

Division(s):

CABINET – 17 JANUARY 2011
MEMBER CHAMPIONS – APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY
CHAMPIONS

Report by County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Introduction

1. Under the Council's Constitution the Cabinet may designate member champions and appoint councillors to, and remove them from these roles. The current member champions are:

Buses:	Councillor Stewart Lilly
Cycling:	Councillor Arash Fatemian (as Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure)
Efficiencies:	Councillor Charles Shouler
Heritage:	Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Older People:	Councillor David Sexon
Olympics:	Councillor Bill Service
Risk Management:	Councillor David Wilmshurst (as Chairman of the Audit Committee)
Military (overarching):	Councillor Keith Mitchell

2. Member Champions provide quarterly reports of their activities to other Members and these are posted on the 'Elected Members' part of the Council's intranet.

3. Councillor Mitchell fulfils the role of Military Champion for the County as a whole. The Cabinet is now asked to consider formally creating 5 additional Military Champions focusing on each of the military bases in Oxfordshire and confirming appointments. Annex 1 sets out the proposed role, the purpose of which is to strengthen the relationship the armed forces have with local authorities in Oxfordshire.

Financial and Staff Implications

4. Support for this role is provided by the Strategy and Communications team.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

5. The member champions will support the work the Council has done and will continue to undertake in support of Service personnel, their families and Veterans.

RECOMMENDATION

6. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to appoint the following Councillors as Military Champions:

- 1. Bicester Garrison : Cllr Kieron Mallon**
- 2. RAF Brize Norton: Cllr Donald Robert Seale**
- 3. Abingdon Station: Cllr Sandy Lovatt**
- 4. Vauxhall Barracks: Cllr Tony Harbour**
- 5. RAF Benson:**
- 6. Defence Academy Shrivenham: Cllr Keith Mitchell
(as Leader of the Council)**

PETER CLARK
County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

Annex : Role of Military Champion

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Role of Military Champions**Context:**

We are immensely proud of the relationship our armed forces have with the local authorities throughout Oxfordshire, the work we have done and will continue to undertake in support of Service personnel, their families and Veterans. Oxfordshire has a large military presence; the total number of Service personnel based in the County will be in the order of 11,000 with the expansion of RAF Brize Norton.

To strengthen the relationship, six elected members will be appointed as Military Champions – one for each military base in Oxfordshire to supplement the ‘overarching’ military champion role.

Member Champions – Job Description – Military**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The purpose of this role is to help forge better communication between Oxfordshire County Council and our Military bases. In particular, this role will:

- Form effective links with the respective local military base in order to increase awareness of key issues and help OCC officers to understand the key issues faced by members of the Armed Forces Community. This will include keeping abreast of key changes at local military establishments
- Act as a strategic link between the County Council and the Armed Forces Community. This means that you will be the main point of contact for the Armed Forces/Base Commander to tackle issues or problems e.g education – school
- Cooperate with local members, making sure local members are informed of relevant activities they need to be involved in or aware of
- Liaise with the relevant County Council officers including the bi-lateral lead (Director) and the locality lead officers on any issues they need to be involved in or aware of
- Champion the Oxfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant and encourage organisations to sign up and support this
- Require you to use your relevant military background and/or links to help establish an effective working relationship with the Base Commander
- Work with the Leader of the Council (as the overarching military champion) and the Chairman of the Strategy and Partnerships Committee to find the best way of tackling the key issues.

This role is an opportunity to:

- act as a crucial link between members, base commanders as well as officers
- help break down any barriers that exist
- ensure members and officers understand some of the issues the armed forces face
- raise the profile of the Armed Forces Community Covenant within the County Council and externally.

Support available:

- support from the Strategy and Communications Unit
- regular liaison meetings with the Strategy and Communications lead officer (Claire Moore) and the Military Liaison Officer (Major Jonathan Huxley)
- A meeting can be arranged with the relevant base commander and other key personnel if required
- briefing on the work of the Armed Forces Community Covenant to date

Reporting

- You are required to formally report back on your activities and important developments on the topic four times a year.
- Reports should be submitted to councillor.reports@oxfordshire.gov.uk on or before 30 June, 30 September, 31 December and 31 March each year.
- This report will then be published on the 'Elected Members' section of the intranet.

Further Information

- Further details on the person specification can be found in the Member Champion Role – Guidance Notes section of the constitution ((Part 2, Article 2 – Appendix 1).