

## CABINET – 19 JANUARY 2010

### MEMBER CHAMPION FOR LOCALITY WORKING

#### Report by Assistant Head of Legal and Democratic Services

#### 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:

- Bus Champion	Councillor Stewart Lilly
- Cycling	Councillor Arash Fatemian (for Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure)
- Design Champion	Councillor Mrs. Catherine Fulljames
Healthy Schools Champion:	Councillor Pete Handley
- Heritage Champion	Councillor Don Seale
- Older People's Champion:	Councillor David Sexon
-Olympics Champion	Councillor Bill Service
- Risk Management:	Councillor David Wilmshurst (as Chairman of the Audit Committee)
2. At the June meeting of Cabinet it was agreed that Member Champions provide quarterly reports of their activities to other Members. The first of these were posted on the 'Elected Members' part of the Council's intranet in September.
3. The Cabinet is now asked to consider creating a new Member Champion role for Locality Working and appointing to it. Annex 1 sets out the proposed role, the purpose of which is to help build the successful and productive engagement of elected representatives in locality working.

#### Financial and Staff Implications

4. Support for this role is provided by the partnerships and communities team.

#### Equality and Inclusion Implications

5. The member champion will promote inclusion by encouraging the role of members in representing the council in parish, market town and other community-led planning and checking that relevant evidence and proposals from locality working and community-led plans feeds into council strategic and business planning.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

6. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to appoint a Councillor as Member Champion for Locality Working.**

Tony Cloke  
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Annex : Role of Member Champion for Locality Working

Contact Officer: Kathrin Luddecke, Partnership Officer (Localities), tel:(01865) 323965/Sue Whitehead, Committee Services Manager tel: (01865) 810262

December 2009

## Member Champion for Locality Working

The purpose of this role is to help build the successful and productive engagement of elected representatives in locality working. The main responsibilities are to:

- help represent and support all members to play a full role in locality working (as set out in the 'Closer to Communities' report to Cabinet in January 2010; e.g. work with relevant officers to ensure members' local intelligence about key issues in an area/division is fed into the council's locality working arrangements)
- encourage communication and exchange of experiences between members representing different localities. This may involve calling on relevant officers for support as and when required
- promote the role of members in representing the council in parish, market town and other community-led planning (as captured in the council's relevant 'protocol' that explains how we wish to work with groups developing local plans)
- check that relevant evidence and proposals from locality working and community-led plans feeds into council strategic and business planning
- provide quarterly reports to Democratic Services for the (internal) website in January, April, July and September each year, and an annual report to Cabinet (like other member champions).

### **This role is an opportunity to:**

- give a voice to members who may have found it difficult to make themselves heard about issues that may not be county-wide, but have a real impact in their own division
- act as a crucial link between members and Cabinet as well as officers (both in localities, through new locality working arrangements, and strategically)
- focus on promoting and supporting the members' role in terms of driving forward the localities work (both to other members and where necessary to officers) – this is about mainstreaming the work rather than doing it all themselves.

### **Support available:**

-quarterly briefings from the Head of Partnership Working and support from partnership and communities team as appropriate