

10:00am, Thursday, 24 August 2017

## Appointment of Elected Member Champions

Item number 7.3

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

### Executive Summary

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At the meeting on the 25 May and 29 June 2017, Council agreed appointments to Council companies, COSLA and outside organisations. This report highlights a review of the benefits from appointing Champion positions and further asks Council to consider making these appointments.

# Elected Member Champions

## Appointment of Elected Member Champions

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To note the benefits of previous champion positions
- 1.2 To make appointments to the positions identified.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 A report detailing Appointments to Outside Organisations 2017-22 was submitted to full Council on 29 June 2017.
- 2.2 This report included a breakdown of each of the appointments and background to the various Champion positions held within the Council.

### 3. Main report

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#### **Review of past champion roles**

- 3.1 From June 2012, the previous Council appointed individual elected members to serve as lead member and champion for a subject matter. There were nine previous Champions for the following areas: Canal; Carers; Equalities and Third Sector; Festival and Events; Play; Sustainability; Veterans; Volunteering Ambassador; and Digital Economy.
- 3.2 In order to establish whether or not elected members and the Council as a whole benefit from their appointment to additional roles such as champion positions, feedback was sought directly from those who had participated. This formed part of the Councillor feedback exercise that was carried out by Councillor officers during April 2017.
- 3.3 Elected members mentioned a number of benefits to the Council that participation offered:
  - Knowledge gained by elected members which gave them a better understanding of local issues and enabled them to make strategic decisions
  - Opportunities to give advice to organisations and act as a direct link to the Council

- Ability to seek support when certain issues arose and if they lacked the expertise or knowledge, they were able to speak to the appropriate Council officer who would be able to provide further information and assistance.

3.4 In conclusion, the Champion role within the City of Edinburgh Council offered the opportunity for an elected member to act as an ambassador for their specified area. It also allowed them to raise awareness of issues and listen directly to the voices of representatives across the city in their communities. In some of the roles, residents themselves also benefited as they can have direct meetings with the Champion.

### **Appointment of Champion roles**

3.5 In the Council meeting on 29 June 2017, [Item 7.1 - Appointments to Outside Organisations 2017-22](#), members were asked to consider whether to continue with the practice of appointing specific Champions.

3.6 The Council is invited to consider changing the number of champions from nine to 16. The appointment of the further six champions re-affirms the Council's commitment to advance progress on the vital issues across the city.

3.7 The next few years will call upon the public sector to navigate many challenges, including continuing major public service reforms, managing change in the economy, as well as maintaining and improving the provision of our much-needed services. In these times of change over the next five years, making these commitments early becomes more important.

3.8 The roles and responsibilities of the Champion will potentially include some of the following descriptions as a guide:

- Act as an ambassador for their specified area, which includes taking responsibility for maintaining and raising the profile of their area.
- Support the work of the committee convenors through working in a collaborative role and feeding into the decision-making role of the relevant convenors.
- Contribute to the development of policy in Edinburgh of their area and providing leadership and guidance when required.
- Act as a local expert and advocate working with and engaging with communities across the city.
- Ensure focus is maintained on achieving the desired objectives and outcomes of their area.

3.9 There are 16 champions positions. Each position and their remit is detailed below:

	Champion Area	Remit
1	Canal Champion	Champion the development, maintenance and repair of canals throughout the city and the region.

	Champion Area	Remit
2	Carers Champion	Act as the champion for Carers and their families throughout the city.
3	Equalities Champion	Champion the outcomes of the Equalities Act and protected characteristics.
4	Festivals Champion	Support the work of the Culture and communities committee and in relation to the city's festivals. Specifically work with the literature institutions and festivals to maximise the City's literary status and presence in all our communities.
5	Sustainability Champion	Work with the sustainability partnership to champion Edinburgh as a leading city on sustainability in terms of economic, environmental and social issues.
6	Veterans' Champion	Act as the city's champion for veterans support.
7	Volunteering Ambassador	Champion volunteering across the city to support people to make a real difference in their communities.
New Champion areas		
8	Young people Champion	Engage with Young Edinburgh Action, youth forums across the city and Scottish Youth Parliament to champion issues raised by young people.
9	Homelessness Champion	Champion the Council's response and report for people who are homeless across the city.
10	Small Business Champion	Act as the champion for small businesses and start-ups in the region and lead the support for future enterprises.
11	Gaelic Language Champion	Champion the Gaelic language improve access for residents and communities.
12	Child Poverty Champion	Champion the Council and our partners' response to child poverty and improving the support provided to families.
13	Cycling Champion	Act as the Council's champion for cycling, the cycling network and active travel across the region.

#### 4. Measures of success

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- 4.1 In line with the Council Performance Framework and the outcomes assigned to each of the strategic aims

#### 5. Financial impact

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- 5.1 There is no direct Financial Impact of selecting Elected Member Champions

#### 6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 Elected member champions should align to complement current committee and convener structure.

## 7. Equalities impact

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- 7.1 Selection and appointment of elected member champions supports delivery of equalities outcomes and the protected characteristics.
- 7.2 The Equalities Champion is the lead for this area and ensuring equalities is embedded across communities and within the organisation

## 8. Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 Selection and appointment of elected member champions supports delivery of sustainability outcomes. The range and breadth of remits of champions brings advantages for delivery of the three pillars of sustainability
- 8.2 The Sustainability Champion is the lead for this area and ensuring sustainability is embedded across communities and within the organisation

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Elected members have been consulted and have discussed the future of the Champion position and the range of remits they carry.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 Appointments to Outside Organisations 2017/22 - [Item 7.1 - Appointments to Outside Organisations 2017-22](#)

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

Contact: Laurence Rockey, Head of Strategy and Insight

E-mail: [laurence.rockey@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:laurence.rockey@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 3493