



TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPION FOR HERITAGE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee to consider the appointment of a Member Champion for Heritage.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee is recommended not to appoint a Member Champion in relation to matters concerning the Borough's heritage since the Mayor has offered to continue to carry out those functions as part of his Mayoral duties.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 In accordance with the Constitution (Part 3 (Section B) Council and Committees may approach individual Members to take on a specific role to highlight and enhance an area of that Committee or the Council's terms of reference:
- (i) The Council or Committee holding the corresponding functions within its terms of reference may appoint a Member Champion from one of their number. This may be the Chair or any other member of the Committee. However, the Leader of the Council, with agreement of the Group Leaders, has proposed that for the 23/24 municipal year Councillor Jerry Williams, although not a member of the committee, continues to carry out the functions of a heritage champion as part of his Mayoral duties.
 - (ii) Where the subject of a Member Champion covers functions across the terms of reference of more than one Committee, the Committees may jointly appoint the Member Champion from either of their Committees' number.
- 1.2 The role of a Member Champion is to become a focus for the Council and Committee, partners, stakeholders and communities in order to:
- (i) Raise the profile of that highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions, and in conjunction with the relevant Member(s), officers and partner(s), support community engagement activities and other related publicity campaigns;
 - (ii) Liaise with Members, public sector partners and other stakeholders to promote key initiatives (as appropriate and required);
 - (iii) Act as an advocate for that highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions and be required to familiarise themselves with related matters;
 - (iv) Seek out and share best practice from other areas of the UK;
 - (v) Periodically present reports to the members of their Committee or other committees (as necessary and requested) setting out the actions taken and how those actions have contributed to the success and promotion of that highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions;
 - (vi) Present, as appropriate, research papers and suggest new initiatives and ideas relating to highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions for consideration by the Committee(s) or Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other options considered included alternative ways in which the Member Champion could operate and how they would be selected. It is not possible to appoint

Councillor Jerry Williams formally to be a Heritage Champion because he is not a Member of this Committee and as such is disqualified under the Constitution.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Member Champions associated with the pledges of the Wirral Plan were created in 2015 to support Cabinet Portfolio holders and were brought to an end in 2019.
- 3.2 Champions for three specific areas, prompted by the involvement of outside agencies and requests, have existed for several years in respect of an Armed Forces Champion, Heritage Champion and the Domestic Abuse Champion.
- 3.3 With the introduction of the committee system, some roles automatically continue or be subsumed into the chairing role, such as the Armed Forces Champion being the Mayor and the Risk Champion being the Chair of Audit and Risk Management Committee. However, it falls within the terms of reference of the Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee to appoint a Heritage Champion.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No allowance or other remuneration shall be paid to Member Champions for performing the role.
- 4.2 Expenses may be met for engagements with outside bodies or public occasions as approved by the relevant lead officer or the Committee and therefore there are no financial implications to this decision.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report other than the constitutional point set out in paragraph 2.1.
- 5.2 It would not, however, be necessary to appoint a Heritage Champion if the Mayor has offered to carry out its functions as part of his Mayoral duties.
- 5.3 It is generally acknowledged that the Mayor is the most suitable person perform those functions by virtue of his knowledge and long experience in this role.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Mayor's additional duties will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1.1 All relevant risks have been considered and the below working arrangements approved by Council;
 - (i) The Mayor will liaise as required with the relevant officer lead and the Committee Chair and Spokespersons in relation to his role and activities.

- (ii) The Mayor will follow all appropriate and applicable Council working protocols for engaging with officers, stakeholders, and the public.
- (iii) The Mayor shall not do anything that is contrary to or inconsistent with any decision or approach taken by the Committee(s) or the Council.
- (iv) Where there is any confusion or difference between the Mayor's views/proposed actions and that of the Committee, the Committee's view/position shall prevail.
- (v) The Mayor shall seek advice and guidance from the Council's Senior Leadership Team if they are in doubt or confusion on any issue or matter.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Elected Members were consulted about these roles as part of the introduction on the new committee system. It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their committee places and appointments.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Whilst there are no direct equality implications as a result of this report, Member Champions will be expected to adhere to Wirral Council's legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work do not discriminate against anyone. This report has no implication for equalities at this time.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Constitution – Committee Terms of Reference

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	16th June 2022
Annual Council	26th May 2021