

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18 March 2025

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Member Champion for Culture

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? Upon conclusion of the Call-in process

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor David Thomas, Leader of the Council, david.thomas@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Matthew Fairclough-Kay, Director of Corporate Services, matthew.fairclough-kay@torbay.gov.uk

1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Member champions are elected members who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business. The main responsibility of each member champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent. A full job description for Member Champions is set out in Annex 1 to the Local Protocol on Member Champions within the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 At the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2023, the Cabinet appointed Councillor Maddison as the Member Champion to champion key aspects of the Council's work in respect of Culture.
- 1.3 Subsequently, on 11 February 2025 the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee considered a complaint that Councillor Maddison has breached the Code of Conduct for Members. In their determination, the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee made a recommendation to the Leader of the Council in respect of Councillor Maddison's appointment as the Member Champion for Culture, as set out in Appendix 1.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 To acknowledge and respond to the recommendation of the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee held on 11 February 2025. The Cabinet recognise that the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee recommended temporary removal until training had been undertaken. However, given Councillor Maddison's behaviour at Council on 27 February 2025, that the Cabinet considers removal from the position to be the most appropriate course of action.
-

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) that in light of Councillor Maddison's behaviour at Council, that Cabinet considers whether Councillor Maddison be removed from the position of Member Champion for Culture; and
- (ii) that the Leader of the Council ask all Members for expressions of interest in undertaking the role if she is to be replaced

Appendices

Appendix 1 Standards Hearing Sub-Committee Record of Decision