

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 23 January 2025

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Appointment of Member Champions

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? as soon as possible

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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 11 July 2023, the Cabinet appointed Councillor Tranter as the Member Champion to champion key aspects of the Council's work in respect of the Armed Forces.
- 1.3 At the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6 November 2024, Members considered an annual review of Safer Torbay (Torbay's Community Safety Partnership). Part of the discussions centred around Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and what the Council and Councillors could do to help support this vital Service. The Overview and Scrutiny Board (unanimously) agreed to request the Cabinet to appoint a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Member Champion. The background to this can be found at Appendix 2 to this report (Note: the remaining recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board would be considered at part of the Priorities and Resources Review 2025/2026).
- 1.4 The Leader of the Council sought expressions of interest from all Councillors for the two Member Champion positions and following an interview process with the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council, and in consultation with the Group Leaders and Chief Executive, it was proposed that Councillors Spacagna and Johns be appointed to the two Member Champion roles.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

- 2.1 To change the Member appointed as the Member Champion for Armed Forces for the remainder of the current four-year term of office and respond to the request of

the Overview and Scrutiny Board to appoint a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Member Champion.

- 2.2 There are no financial commitments in respect of the proposals contained in this report.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That Cabinet give thanks to Councillor Tranter for the work she has undertaken to date, to champion the Council's work in respect of the Armed Forces;
- (ii) That Councillor Spacagna be appointed as the Armed Forces Champion until May 2027; and
- (iii) That Councillor Johns be appointed as the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Member Champion until May 2027.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Local Protocol on Member Champions as set out in the Council's Constitution
- Appendix 2 Safer Communities Annual Review/Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board