

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2012
REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To consider a recommendation from the Democratic Services Committee that its chairman be appointed Member development champion.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 At the end of April 2012 the Welsh Government implemented section 7 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 relating to the training and development of Members. On the 25 June the Welsh Government issued statutory guidance on section 7. Paragraph 2.20 of the statutory guidance encourages local authorities to appoint a Member development champion from amongst its members.
- 2.02 At its meeting on the 24 July the Democratic Services Committee considered a report on those parts of the statutory guidance relating to the training and development of Members, including the encouragement to appoint a member development champion. The report explained that at a Council meeting on the 19 October 2010 a decision had been taken to terminate such Member champions that had been appointed by and on behalf of the Council. In view of the recent statutory guidance the committee resolved to recommend to Council that the chairman of the Democratic Services Committee be appointed Member development champion.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Flintshire was one of the first County Councils in Wales to obtain the Welsh Local Government Association Charter for Member support and development. One of the requirements of that Charter is that there should be a Member development champion. This role was originally undertaken by Councillor Glenys Diskin and subsequently by Councillor Neville Phillips during the times when each of them chaired the Member Development Working Group prior to the 19 October 2010.

- 3.02 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires County Councils to have a Democratic Services Committee. The role of this committee includes the role previously undertaken by the Member Development Working Group. At the May annual meeting it was resolved that there should be a review of the various Member working groups and fora to ascertain whether or not they should continue. That review may well conclude that there is no longer a need for a Member Development Working Group in view of the new Democratic Services Committee.
- 3.03 The appointment of a Member development champion will meet both the requirements of the WLGA Charter for Member support and development and more importantly comply with the statutory guidance issued on the 25 June 2012.
- 3.04 The appointment of a Member development champion is one indication of the importance the Council attaches to Member development. It also is useful in identifying one Member whom all other Members can approach if they have any issues relating to Member development. The Member champion will also liaise closely with the appropriate officers on Member development initiatives.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 The Democratic Services Committee recommends that the Council appoint the chairman of the Democratic Services Committee as Member development champion pursuant to paragraph 2.20 of the statutory guidance on the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 There are no financial implications.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report to Democratic Services Committee of the 24 July 2012 on statutory guidance on the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. The statutory guidance on the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Contact Officer: Peter Evans
Telephone: 01352 702304
Email: peter.j.evans@flintshire.gov.uk