

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Governance and Constitution Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 30 September 2009  
**Report of:** Democratic Services Manager  
**Subject/Title:** Appointment of Member Development Champions

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 The Governance and Constitution Committee is invited to endorse the nominations contained in the report in respect of the position of Member Development Champion for Cheshire East Council.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That

- (1) the Role Description for the position of Member Development Champion be approved; and
- (2) Councillors Wesley Fitzgerald, Ainsley Arnold, Paul Edwards and Dorothy Flude be appointed as Member Development Champions for Cheshire East Council.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To maintain the flow of information between officers and Members, it is beneficial to have named contacts within each political group having responsibility for Member Training and Development, in turn increasing the support available to Members in respect of their personal development. Furthermore, the appointment of named advocates will support the Council's application for accreditation under the North West Charter on Elected Member Development.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 None

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 Not applicable

### **6.0 Policy Implications**

- 6.1 None identified

## **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

7.1 None identified

## **8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

8.1 None identified

## **9.0 Legal Implications**

9.1 None Identified

## **10.0 Risk Management**

10.1 The appointment of Member Development Champions for Cheshire East Council adds weight to the authority's application for accreditation under the North West Charter on Elected Member Development.

## **11.0 Background and Options**

11.1 The Member Development Panel has recently agreed, in principle, to the drawing up of role descriptions for Members of Cheshire East Council. Work is currently underway on drafting the descriptions which will be shared with Members before being submitted to Governance and Constitution Committee for consideration in due course.

11.2 Arising from its discussions, the Panel had considered ways of establishing formal links between the officers tasked with supporting Member Training and Development and the Members themselves. Its conclusion was to recommend the appointment of a Member Development Champion, who would act as an advocate for Member Training and Development and who would work with both Members and officers to deliver the commitments outlined in the Member Development Strategy. A draft role description is attached (Appendix).

11.3 The Member Development Panel is supportive of the initiative but considered that a Champion should be nominated from each of the political groups and the following nominees were proposed:-

Conservative	Councillor Wesley Fitzgerald
Liberal Democrat	Councillor Ainsley Arnold
Labour	Councillor Dorothy Flude
Minority Groups	Councillor Paul Edwards

11.4 The Governance and Constitution Committee is invited to approve the role description for Member Development Champion and to appoint the Councillors nominated to that role.

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

- 12.1 The appointments will be a key element in setting a precedent for the delivery of Member Training and Development for year one and beyond.

## **13.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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