

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday 26 August 2021

## Elected Member Champion – Older People

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To consider whether to appoint an elected member champion for older people.
- 1.2 To note a review of the role of elected member champions will be carried out with findings and recommendations presented to Council, following the local government elections in 2022.

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## Elected Member Champion – Older People

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The report asks Council to consider whether to appoint an elected member champion for older people.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Council has elected member champions for the following roles active travel, built environment and sustainability, canal, carers, child poverty, equalities, festivals, Gaelic, homelessness, small business, veterans, volunteering and young people.
- 3.2 In 2017, the role of a champion was set out to: act as an ambassador for their specified area, which includes taking responsibility for maintaining and raising the profile of their area; support the work of the committee convenors through working in a collaborative role and feeding into the decision-making role of the relevant convenors; contribute to the development of policy in Edinburgh of their area and providing leadership and guidance when required; act as a local expert and advocate working with and engaging with communities across the city; and, ensure focus is maintained on achieving the desired objectives and outcomes of their area.
- 3.3 In 2018, in response to a Council Question, a detailed survey was carried with champions to identify the specific activity carried out and their value and impact. All but one champion expressed some benefits to their role.
- 3.4 At its meeting in December 2020, the Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed that each champion reports to their corresponding executive committee on an annual basis via the business bulletin.
- 3.5 The Council has been approached by the national charity Age Scotland and the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) to establish an Older People's Champion.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The Council has appointed elected member champions for a number of roles, set out in paragraph 3.1. There is currently no champion for older people.

- 4.2 The Council has been approached by the national charity Age Scotland and the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) to establish an Older People's Champion.
- 4.3 These organisations suggest Older People's Champions are councillors who act as a link between the council and older people in the local area. Their responsibilities include ensuring older people's perspectives are understood in every policy area, feeding back on older people's concerns to the council, leading on council campaigns around older people's issues and helping to communicate council policy to older people and the wider community. The suggested remit is similar to that set out at paragraph 3.2
- 4.4 A list of current champions and corresponding executive committees is attached at Appendix 1. If appointed, it is proposed that the older people champion reports to the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The appointee would commence the role as set out in paragraph 3.2
- 5.2 The last review of the role of champions was in 2018. A review of this role will be carried out in advance of the local government election in May 2022. Findings and recommendations of this review will be presented to Council.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There is no direct financial impact from this appointment.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Stakeholder and community engagement is a key part of this role.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Appointments of members to Committees, Boards and Joint Boards – City of Edinburgh Council May 2017](#)
- 8.2 [Elected Member Champions – The City of Edinburgh Council – 28 September 2018](#)
- 8.3 [Review of Political Management Arrangements December 2020 – City of Edinburgh Council of 10 December 2020](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 List of Elected Member Champions

## Appendix 1 – List of Elected Member Champions

### THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

Active Travel Champion	Councillor Child	Transport and Environment Committee
Built Environment and Sustainability Champion	Councillor Gordon	Policy and Sustainability Committee
Canal Champion	Councillor Corbett	Transport and Environment Committee
Carers Champion	Councillor Griffiths	Policy and Sustainability Committee
Child Poverty Champion	Councillor Day	Education, Children and Families Committee
Equalities Champion	Councillor Gordon	Policy and Sustainability Committee
Festivals Champions	Councillors Wilson and McNeese-Mechan	Culture and Communities Committee
Gaelic Champion	Councillor Dickie	Education, Children and Families
Homelessness Champion	Councillor Kate Campbell	Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee
Small Business Champion	Councillor Cameron	Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee
Veterans Champion	Lord Provost	Policy and Sustainability Committee
Volunteering Ambassador	Lord Provost	Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee
Young People's Champion	Councillor Bird	Education, Children and Families Committee