

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	
date	21 July 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

MEMBER CHAMPIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to implement the introduction of Fire & Rescue Authority Member Champions and establish the Champions' role.

2. BACKGROUND

Members of the Community Safety Committee are aware that the concept of Member Champions has been discussed and agreed in principle by the Authority. The introduction of new Governance arrangements presents an ideal opportunity to take forward this concept. It has been proposed that individual Member Champions should be established based on District boundaries.

3. REPORT

3.1 The establishment of Member Champions, in representing communities, is seen as an opportunity for both Member/Officer development, improved decision making and highlighting ways in which the Service aims to improve safety and well-being of the communities it serves. This new role will also allow Members the opportunity to further promote and support the work of the Authority.

3.2 It is proposed that Member Champions are established on a District/Community basis aligned to the current delivery structure of the Service :

- § Ashfield District
- § Bassetlaw District
- § Broxtowe District
- § Nottingham City District
- § Gedling District
- § Mansfield District
- § Newark & Sherwood District
- § Rushcliffe District

3.3 It is recognised that the Member representation on the Fire & Rescue Authority is drawn from the City and County Councils. Membership is not therefore based on District/Borough geo-political boundaries. The Authority has already recognised that in certain cases – eg: Newark and Sherwood – there is no Fire & Rescue Authority Member present. In other areas – eg: Gedling – there is more than one Member present. Members will therefore need to agree a process for representation in such cases.

- 3.4 It is proposed that the role of the Member Champion would be :
- § To foster engagement between local communities and the Service ;
 - § To act as an advocate for the Authority, promoting effective communication and positive working relationships with local Councils and amongst partners, stakeholders and community groups ;
 - § As a source of community intelligence and feedback to the Authority ;
 - § To promote the positive work that is undertaken by the Authority ;
 - § To provide positive support to Officers in driving forward the Authority's agenda in the community.
- 3.5 The establishment of Member Champions also provides the opportunity for greater Member and Officer development. The learning and understanding that can come out of this two-way working relationship and approach will assist in both improving service delivery and better informing future Community Safety Plans.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional financial implications have been identified which cannot be accommodated within current budgets.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A full equality impact assessment has not been undertaken with regard to this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

By acting as "champions" for the Fire & Rescue Service, Members will ensure that the Service's priorities are concurrent with those of the local community. This will ensure that opportunities to improve Community Safety are not missed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that :

- 8.1 Members from within the Fire & Rescue Authority based in District/Borough and City Community Safety areas are identified to act as Member Champions.
- 8.2 Where those areas do not currently benefit from Elected Member co-location, a nomination is sought from another District/Borough area where there is more than one Member.
- 8.2 The Chair of the Community Safety Committee, in conjunction with Officers, work with Members to accomplish the introduction and development of the Member Champion role.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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