

Report to Governance and Constitution Review Committee

27 May 2022

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| Subject: | Constitution Review – Review of Cabinet Advisor Roles |
| Director: | Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, Surjit Tour |
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Full Council be recommended to approve the revised role descriptions for Cabinet Advisors (to be renamed Performance Champions) as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.







2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Governance and Constitution Review Committee is the body charged to review and make recommendations to Council on the content of the Constitution. Any changes to the Constitution are reserved matters for Council to determine.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

- 3.1 The proposals support the delivery of all objectives contained in the corporate plan.



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|  | Best start in life for children and young people |
|  | People live well and age well |
|  | Strong resilient communities |
|  | Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods |
|  | A strong and inclusive economy |
|  | A connected and accessible Sandwell |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 In 2019, Council approved the establishment of six Cabinet Advisor roles. Absorbing the previous Member champion roles, the purpose of the Cabinet Advisors was to provide alternative views, opinions and advice on wider, often cross-cutting issues and matters, to the Executive with a view to supporting and enabling more informed policy and strategy development. The roles enabled Cabinet Advisors to share their own experiences, areas of expertise and views/opinions from wider engagement they undertook in relation to matters falling within the scope of each Cabinet Advisor role.
- 4.2 The Cabinet Advisors did not form part of the Executive. However, the Executive could seek their views and engage them in relation to relevant matters and issues so that important insight, ideas, thoughts and views could be harnessed when executive functions were considered.
- 4.3 Cabinet Advisors provided an additional mechanism and opportunity for important views and opinions to be ascertained, in particular from the public, partners and stakeholders. This was in addition to the other functions, mechanisms already in place, such as the Council's Scrutiny function and arrangements, consultation arrangements and methodologies.



4.4 In June 2021, the former Leader aligned the Cabinet Advisors to the corporate objectives outlined below:

- Business Ambassadors and Community Wealth
- Clean & Green
- Crime & Community Safety
- Digital Inclusion and 5G
- Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Young People and Skills

4.5 A review of the roles of Cabinet Advisors has been undertaken and it is proposed that they be renamed Performance Champions and their responsibilities be reprofiled to support the Council’s key objectives. The Governance and Constitution Committee is requested to consider and make recommendations to Full Council on the proposals to revise the existing roles, focusing their remit towards the council commitments as follows:

- Safer Community
- Greener Community
- Cleaner Community
- Our economy
- External partnerships
- Neighbourhoods – Lead Champion

4.6 Re-shaping the overarching responsibilities, as outlined in the proposed role descriptions at Appendix 1, would support delivery of both portfolio activity and of the Council’s key commitments.

5 Implications

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| Resources: | The Independent Remuneration Panel previously recommended, and Full Council approved, a Special Responsibility Allowance of 33.3% of the Leaders allowance be paid to Cabinet Advisors (now to be renamed Performance Champions). The cost of the roles are met from within approved budgets. |
| Legal and Governance: | Whilst not part of the Executive, the role of Performance Champion will enable non-Executive members to contribute, alongside the work of the |



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| | Overview and Scrutiny function, to the direction of travel for the Council and help shape and influence policy. |
| Risk: | None specifically associated with this report. However, Performance Champions may from time to time receive confidential, personal or sensitive information that will need to be managed in accordance with information governance obligations. |
| Equality: | Performance Champions will engage with a variety of people from different backgrounds. Ensuring such views are captured and considered is an important part of the role of Performance Champion. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The remit of several of the proposed revised roles would contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities. |
| Social Value | The remit of several of the proposed revised roles would contribute to enhancing social value. |

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Role Descriptions

7. Background Papers

None

