

**Audit, Governance and
Standards Committee
2024**

15th July

Member Risk Champion

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen May
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Contact email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit, Standards and Governance Committee is asked to RESOLVE:-

- 1) That the updated terms of reference for the position of Member Risk Champion be approved; and**
- 2) To appoint a Member Risk Champion for the 2024/25 municipal year.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report details proposed changes to the position of Member Risk Champion for Bromsgrove District Council.
- 2.2 Members are invited to consider whether to approve these proposed changes to the role.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 There has been a Member Risk Champion at Bromsgrove District Council for a number of years.
- 3.2 The Member Risk Champion takes a lead for elected Members in terms of monitoring risks that might impact on Council services and

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identifying whether appropriate mitigating action is in place to address these risks.

- 3.3 The Member Risk Champion can also provide assurance to fellow Members that risks are managed appropriately by the Council and can investigate particular risks identified by other Councillors where requested to do so.
- 3.4 To date, the Member Risk Champion has always been a member of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and has provided verbal updates to the Committee on the findings arising from their investigations. The Member Risk Champion is usually appointed at the first meeting of the Committee held in the municipal year.
- 3.5 However, at the first meeting of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee in the 2024/25 municipal year, held on 23rd May 2024, no member of the Committee was nominated to this position.
- 3.6 The requirement for the Member Risk Champion to be a member of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee is reflected in the current terms of reference for the role. However, this is not a legal requirement and nor does this form part of the Audit, Standards and Governance Procedure Rules in the Council's constitution. Therefore, there is scope to amend the terms of reference to enable a Councillor who is not a Member of the Committee to take on this role.
- 3.7 In the 2023/24 municipal year, Councillor B. McEldowney was the Member Risk Champion for the authority. However, following Councillor McEldowney's appointment to the Cabinet in May 2024, he is no longer eligible to take on this role in its current form as Members of Cabinet are not permitted to be members of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee.
- 3.8 It is suggested that Members could amend the terms of reference for the position of Member Risk Champion to enable a Councillor who is not a member of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee to be appointed to this role. Suggested amendments to the terms of reference for this position are highlighted in track changes at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.9 Should Members agree to amend the terms of reference for the position of Risk Champion to allow Councillors who are not members of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee to take on this role, the Committee would still need to ensure that the role was being

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undertaken with due diligence. Therefore, the Committee might want to request that the Member in this position should provide written updates for Members' consideration at meetings of the Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the proposals detailed in this report.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

6.1 The work of the Member Risk Champion helps to ensure that Bromsgrove District Council remains an effective and sustainable Council.

Climate Change Implications

6.2 There are no specific climate change implications arising in this report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.3 There are no specific equalities and diversity implications arising in this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The role of Member Risk Champion is important in terms of providing Councillors with assurance in respect of risk management, including the actions being taken by the Council to mitigate any risks that could impact on the authority.

7.2 There is a risk that, if the terms of reference for the position of Member Risk Champion are not updated to enable Councillors who are not Members of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee to take on the role, there may be no volunteers this municipal year to fulfil this very important position. This could undermine Members' confidence in risk management arrangements at the Council.

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8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Proposed updated terms of reference for the role of Member Risk Champion.

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen May.	July 2024
Financial Services	Pete Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer	July 2024