

ANNEXE A

Design Champion

The role of the Design Champion is to persuade both colleagues in the local authority and the wider community of the benefits that quality in the built environment offers to everyone in the community. The Champion will therefore ensure that the built environment plays a key role in the activities of the local authority in terms of policy development and service delivery, and that both Members and officers of the Council are able to make decisions fully informed of both the opportunities and implications for the built environment.

General duties for the Design Champion would include:

- Provide highly visible point of contact for external organisations;
- Lead from the front and generate enthusiasm for good design;
- Work with local authority staff and members to ensure local authority's key policies take proper account of built environment issues;
- Promote the value of good design as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration and neighbourhood renewal;
- Ensure that all relevant staff and members within the local authority are aware of available external expertise and advice on design (available from CABE, English Heritage and regional Architecture Centres);
- Ensure that local authority pays due regard to good design in all planning functions – this will include the promotion of positive, proactive planning to deliver and protect good design;
- Ensure that design issues are given due consideration in development proposals and any conflict is satisfactorily resolved;
- Ensure sufficient design and conservation skills, both at officer and member levels
- Promote, where appropriate, supplementary planning guidance on design issues;
- Ensure that all capital and maintenance investment by the local authority delivers a well designed fit for purpose product that enhances and respects its context – a building should not be seen in isolation but as part of a place;
- Ensure highways functions are integrated into the wider urban design objectives of the local authority.

Historic Environment Champion

The role of the Historic Environment Champion is to persuade both colleagues in the local authority and the wider community that the historic environment offers many opportunities to improve the quality of life for everyone. The Champion will therefore ensure that the historic environment plays a key role in the activities of the local authority in terms of policy development and service delivery, and that both Members and officers of the Council are able to make decisions fully informed of both the opportunities and implications for the historic environment.

General duties for the Historic Environment Champion would include:

- Ensure that Cabinet portfolio holders and senior officers (including the Chief Executive) are aware of historic environment issues and opportunities as they relate to their service;
- Promote the value of the historic environment as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration and neighbourhood renewal;
- Be alert to the opportunities for the historic environment to attract inward economic investment and funding;
- Ensure that relevant historic environment issues are taken into account in the preparation of all relevant corporate strategies and local development frameworks, including Community Strategies prepared by Local Strategic Partnerships;
- Ensure that the provision of historic environment expertise is adequately resourced to enable the continuity and quality of service to be maintained;
- Work with officers in the planning service to ensure that new development in historic areas responds creatively and sympathetically to its environment and ensure quality assurance, compliance and enforcement where necessary;
- Ensure that the Authority's key policies, such as education, highways management, tourism and leisure take proper account of the local and regional historic environment;
- Work with officers and colleagues in the Authority to develop a Conservation Management Statement or Strategy;
- Ensure that good practice within then Authority relating to heritage and the historic environment is shared, and that examples of such practice from other authorities are brought to the attention of the relevant Members or officers;
- Work closely with corporate property officers and other colleagues and Members to ensure a positive and long term strategic approach to the management and conservation of the Authority's own historic estate, and to ensure that it is appropriately identified and recorded;
- Ensure that all relevant colleagues within the Authority are aware of the available external expertise and advice on the historic environment from bodies such as English Heritage.