

Member Advocates

What are they?

The Council has appointed a number of Councillors to be advocates for certain interests within the Council and in the community. They are listed below:

MEMBER ADVOCATE	AREA	CABINET MEMBER
Cllr Neil Butters	Rail liaison	Cllr Manda Rigby
Cllr Jess David	Biodiversity	Cllr Sarah Warren
Cllr Alan Hale	Safer Roads	Cllr Manda Rigby
Cllr Yukteshwar Kumar	BAME issues	Cllr Dine Romero
Cllr Ruth Malloy	Great Spas of Europe	Cllr Richard Samuel
Cllr Ruth Malloy	Twinning	Cllr Richard Samuel
Cllr Sarah Moore	Accessibility	All portfolios
Cllr Alastair Singleton	Renewable Energy	Cllr Sarah Warren
Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall	Engagement with students	Cllr Dine Romero
Cllr Chris Watt	Looked After Children	Cllr Dine Romero
Cllr Ryan Wills	Rural Communities	Cllr Dine Romero

What do they do?

Advocates are primarily to advocate the needs of their particular “interest” area. They do not have decision making powers.

The Member Advocate will provide a brief description (*as a guide - no more than 50 words*) for the Annual General Meeting in May each year about the work they have done in their role in that year, in agreement with the Cabinet member.

How do they work?

The Advocate;

- will work co-operatively with the relevant Cabinet member;
- needs an up to date understanding of Council and partner issues affecting their "interest";
- cannot commit the Council or work outside the political management or executive arrangements;
- will work to promote their "interest" within and with the community
- will provide advice as required;
- should/could be a nominated Council representative on a relevant outside body;
- can attend relevant conferences relating to their "interest" subject to the prior approval of their Group Leader and in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member;
- is not a media contact;
- does not receive an allowance for this role.

Officer information and advice

To perform their role effectively, the Advocate;

- * liaise with the relevant Cabinet Member and Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Chair(s)
- * must work through/report back through a nominated lead Director
- * will use the Councillors' dashboard as a consultation tool on relevant planned decisions
- * receive briefings from officers as appropriate

Officers are advised to consider this role when they brief members on relevant topics. There is not an automatic right of attendance by the Advocate during such discussions but, given the role vested in them by the Council, there are certain expectations on the Advocate about being "kept in the loop" on relevant issues.