

Report to Stronger Community Select Committee

Date of meeting: 4th February 2020



Subject: Annual review of work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team in developing the Epping Forest Community Champions project.

Officer contact for further information: Vanessa Gayton - Team Manager Culture & Community (564559)

Democratic Services Officer: Jackie Leither (ext.4756)

Recommendations:

That the Stronger Community Select Committee receives an annual progress report on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team on the development of the Community Champions programme.

Report:

The Community Champions programme forms part of the Council's Corporate Plan to maintain and further enhance partnership working with the voluntary sector in order to help build community capacity and resilience across the district, enabling communities to support themselves.

The programme has recruited 17 Community Champions to date from across the district and is set to meet the target of 18 for Quarter 4 performance this year. The Community Champions have helped develop and deliver a number of community initiatives in partnership with EFDC, community organisations and independently.

A presentation on 4th February from the Senior Community Engagement Officer at Epping Forest District Council will give an overview of the project. The officer will be joined by several Community Champions who will share their journeys and experiences of being in the Community Champion role.

Reason for decision: It was agreed that the Stronger Community Select Committee would receive an annual update on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team on the development of the Community Champions programme.

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken: The Community Champions have been recruited using various promotional mediums including, leaflets/posters, social media and at community stands/events district wide. Community Champions were also identified by EFDC partners including Town and Parish Councils and via word of mouth/recommendations.

Service review: N/A

Resource implications: There have been no increases in budget required from the Council, to date.

Personnel: The Senior Community Engagement Officer leads on this project with the support of a part time Community Engagement Officer (recruitment in progress).

Land: N/A

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A

Relevant statutory powers: N/A

Background papers: N/A

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: N/A

Key Decision Ref (if required) N/A