

MAJOR REVIEW – DIVERSIFYING THE STREET CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE – WITNESS SESSION 3

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REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to gather evidence as part of their Major Review into diversifying the Street Champions Initiative.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Question the witnesses
2. Highlight issues for further investigation
3. To make a note of possible recommendations for the review

INFORMATION

As at the previous meeting this witness sessions will be divided into two sections. The first section (starting at 5.30pm) will be with 2 active street champions who have volunteered to provide evidence to the Committee. Once Members have heard from these volunteers they will be allowed to leave the session before the second section in which other witnesses will be present to provide evidence.

Members should note that it has not been possible to secure the witnesses for this session as proposed in the scoping report. This means that the Committee will not be hearing from Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators as initially intended. Instead, witnesses who have already presented to the Committee have been invited to come back to respond to any further questions and to assist Members with the development of final draft recommendations.

Witnesses for the first session are as follows:

| Name | Position |
|-------------------|---|
| Street Champion | Cavendish Ward |
| Street Champion | Uxbridge North Ward |
| Break | |
| Helena Webster | Community Engagement & Town Centre Improvements Manager |
| Charlotte Stamper | Communications Manager |

PAPERS WITH THE REPORT

Review Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Setting the context

1. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the current Street Champions initiative to include:
 - a. The current level of uptake across different areas of the Borough;
 - b. The volume and nature of the issues raised;
 - c. The remit and accountability of the role; and
 - d. The barriers to involvement and reporting issues.
2. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to include:
 - a. The findings of the pilot project into linking the Street Champions Initiative and the Borough's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme;
 - b. The current level of uptake across different areas of the Borough;
 - c. A clear idea as to where schemes are located in the Borough; and
 - d. The barriers to involvement.

Better Access and Reporting

1. To explore ways in which the Council could better use its current resources (e.g. its website) to increase the ease with which volunteers are able to report issues;
2. To assess the viability of using new forms of digital media in order to make reporting issues more accessible; and
3. To explore ways in which those volunteers who do not wish to use digital medias can better report issues.

Street Champions and Neighbourhood Watch

1. To put forward recommendations on how the Street Champions initiative could be linked with Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Borough;
2. To explore ways in which Street Champions could be encouraged to engage more generally in the community safety agenda; and
3. To explore how these initiatives might be linked through the use of the technologies highlighted above.