



**Safest People, Safest Places**

## **Combined Fire Authority**

**29 July 2024**

### **Member Champions**

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## **Report of the Director of People and Organisational Development**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report sets out details of the Authority's vacant Member Champion roles and seeks nominations for the forthcoming year.

### **Background**

2. As part of the approach to developing the Authority's services and engaging with stakeholders, the Authority has sought to 'champion' particular areas of work through a CFA Member Champion role.
3. Member Champions provide the Service with an opportunity to work closely with individual Members to help to develop services and to engage with local communities, staff, councillors and other stakeholders through a closely aligned officer and member relationship.

### **Member Champion Roles**

4. The following Member Champion roles have been identified as bringing significant advantages to the Service and Authority:
  - Community Safety & Arson Reduction
  - Business Fire Safety
  - Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
  - Health, Safety & Wellbeing
  - Retained Duty System

- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescues Services (HMICFRS)
5. The Business Fire Safety Member Champion role is vacant and role requirements are set out in Appendix A.
  6. Given the extremely challenging financial position facing public services, the role of a Member Champion is more important than ever if the Service is to ensure performance is sustained over the medium to longer term.
  7. Any Members undertaking a Member Champion role will gain a significant amount of personal development in relation to the specific role being undertaken, whilst the Service benefits from the local knowledge, experience and public standing of Members.
  8. Details of work undertaken by Member Champions will be recorded on individual training and development records.

### **Expressions of Interest**

9. Members are requested to complete and submit the expression of interest form attached at Appendix B and return it to Janine Hindmarch via email [pa@ddfired.gov.uk](mailto:pa@ddfired.gov.uk) by 9 August 2024.
10. The outcomes of this process will be reported to the Combined Fire Authority on the 16 September 2024.

### **Recommendations**

11. CFA Members are requested to:
  - a. **Note** the member champion role as set out in this report and as detailed at Appendix A.
  - b. **Note** that the expression of interest form Appendix B needs to be submitted by email by the 9 August 2024.
  - c. **Note** that the Fire Authority will approve the Member Champion at the Combined Fire Authority meeting on the 16 September 2024, if there is more than one expression of interest for the role a further report will be presented and a vote will take place to allocate the role.

Katherine Metcalfe, Director of People and Organisational Development, 0191  
3755665

## Member Champion for Business Fire Safety (BFS)

### Role Description

<b>Overview</b>	<p>County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority Member Champions play a pivotal role in helping to shape the way services are provided to local communities. Member Champions also play a pivotal role in engaging with key stakeholders and making the best use of links with other councillors to promote the work of the Authority.</p> <p>A Member Champion role provides a unique opportunity to work closely with the Service and to help the Authority deliver its vision of Safest People, Safest Places.</p>
<b>Strategy</b>	<p>The Fire Authority have a statutory duty under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) and have delegated powers to the Chief Fire Officer through the CFA Constitution.</p> <p>A fundamental part of this Member Champion role is to assist the Service to develop its approach to BFS and to help to ensure that services provided by the Authority are fit for purpose, effective and take full account of the statutory requirements placed on the Authority through the Fire Services Act, National Framework and Regulatory Reform Order. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being involved in the early stages of BFS strategy development</li> <li>• Having oversight of the Service's performance involving BFS</li> <li>• Helping to align the Authority's BFS work with the CRMP and wider business community agenda for County Durham and Darlington</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Implementation</b>	<p>The implementation of the Authority's BFS strategy is important in ensuring that the communities we serve remain safe.</p> <p>The Member Champion will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as a sounding board for proposals relating to BFS</li> <li>• Assist the Service to ensure policy implementation takes account of local issues</li> <li>• Ensure that policy implementation takes account of partners and other stakeholders policies where this is practical</li> <li>• Ensure that the strategies we employ are effective</li> <li>• Assist the Service in promoting sprinkler installation</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	<p>Member Champions can play a pivotal role in engagement with stakeholders. This will include pro-active engagement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Fire Authority members</li> <li>• Councillors</li> <li>• Staff</li> <li>• Partner agencies</li> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> <li>• Interest groups / Media</li> <li>• Government officials</li> </ul>

County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**



**Member Champion Expression of Interest**

Name:	
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<b>Member Champion Role</b>	<b>Business Fire Safety</b>
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Please state why you are interested in this role:

Have you any particular skills and/or experience you can bring to this role?

Please return to Janine Hindmarch via [pa@ddfir.gov.uk](mailto:pa@ddfir.gov.uk) by the 9 August 2024.