**[Date]**

Dear **[insert name of Council Leader/Councillor/Candidate]**,

**Older People’s Champions Campaign**

I am writing to seek your support for Age Scotland and the Scottish Older People’s Assembly’s (SOPA) campaign for every local authority in Scotland to establish the role of Older People’s Champion and to appoint a councillor to the position.

An Older People’s Champion is a councillor who acts as a link between the council and older people in the local area. More than half of local authorities in Scotland now have a Champion/s in post, but I understand that the role does not exist here yet.

Age Scotland and SOPA also facilitate a network of Older People’s Champions, bringing together Champions from across Scotland to discuss issues affecting older people at local and national level. The group allows Champions to work together on shared challenges and collectively influence for change. It would be beneficial if our area were represented.

With a growing older population, it is vital that local decision-making meets the needs of older people and that councillors have a better understanding of these. Local authorities are responsible for providing and supporting so many services which older people rely on – such as public transport, social care provision, planning and communities.

As many local authority budgets are under pressure, older people need someone specifically tasked with standing up for their interests and finding out what they need from local decision-makers. Importantly, there is no budgetary implication attached to this role.

I believe the impact of COVID-19 on Scotland’s older people has only strengthened the need for an Older People’s Champion here.

I hope that you can support this campaign and will establish the role of an Older People’s Champion for our council. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**[Your name]**

**[Address and post code]**

**[Email if applicable]**