

Report to Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 May 2016

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral Divisions affected:

All

Appointments to Outside Bodies

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

The Cabinet approves the appointment of County Council representatives to various outside bodies on an annual basis.

A review of the Council's appointments to outside bodies has been undertaken. Attached at Appendix 'A' is a list of proposed appointments to outside bodies for 2016/17. The report also proposes that the Council should no longer make a formal appointment to a number of outside bodies and these are listed at Appendix 'B'.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to agree:

- (i) That the County Council appoint representatives to serve on the outside bodies listed at Appendix 'A' for 2016/17 and that any changes or nominations to fill the positions be submitted to the Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services by the respective political group secretaries; and
- (ii) That the County Council no longer makes a formal appointment to the outside bodies listed at Appendix 'B'.

Background and Advice

Appointments to outside bodies play an important part in fulfilling the County Council's statutory responsibilities and meeting its corporate objectives. The appointments are approved annually by Cabinet with the filling of any in-year vacancies being approved by the Leader of the County Council.

The Executive Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 July 2015 considered the list of appointments to be presented to Cabinet for approval in 2015/16. In considering the report the Committee felt that appointments must be beneficial to both the

outside body and the County Council, and that an appointment should only be made to an outside body if the organisation is aligned or linked to the Council's policies and strategies. The Cabinet supported this view and it was agreed a review of the outside bodies would be undertaken for 2016/17.

A review has been undertaken which included consultation with those members who were appointed to serve on outside bodies in 2015/16. Officers have also looked at each individual body having regard to the views expressed by Cabinet and the Executive Scrutiny Committee, and to the budget decisions taken by Full Council in February 2016. The list of outside bodies can be grouped into four categories:

- Bodies which are statutorily required;
- National and regional organisations;
- Bodies which work across one or more districts; and
- Local community groups.

Following the review, it is recommended that Cabinet considers and approves the appointment of Council representatives to outside bodies for 2016/17 as set out at Appendix 'A'. It should be noted that Appendix 'A' contains a number of charities, trusts and foundations. A more in depth review of some of these outside bodies, as indicated at Appendix 'A', needs to be undertaken as many appointments are historical and based on legal deeds and other similar documents. Also, in a number of cases the County Council is asked to approve the appointment of a non-county council member, usually on the recommendation of the body itself, and these arrangements require further scrutiny. Notwithstanding this it is proposed to make appointments to these bodies for 2016/17 pending the further review and a report will be presented to the Leader in due course.

It is also recommended that the Cabinet should cease to make appointments to the outside bodies listed at Appendix 'B'. Whilst this means that county councillors would not be formally appointed to represent the County Council on any of the outside body listed at Appendix 'B', it would not prevent them from serving on such a body and in particular a local community group to enable them to fulfil their constituency role, should the body wish this to be the case. Councillors are regularly invited to serve on local community groups by the groups themselves and many choose to accept or decline such an invitation having regard to the purpose and objectives of the body, as well as the time demands that would be placed on them.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

Financial

The Members' Allowance Scheme permits the payment of travel and subsistence allowances in respect of formal appointments to outside bodies. This means that a councillor cannot claim any expenses if he/she chooses to serve on an outside body including those listed at Appendix 'B' without the appointment being approved by the Cabinet or the Leader of the County Council.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A