

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 November 2023

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
N/A;

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Appointments to Outside Bodies

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report sets out the outcome of the Political Governance Working Group's review of outside bodies, following the Working Group's meetings on 17 May and 21 September 2023.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposed Protocol on County Council Appointments to Outside Bodies as set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (ii) Approve the revised list of outside bodies and appointments as set out at Appendix 'B', including the addition of the Pennine Community Safety Partnership and the Pilkington Charitable Trust, and noting those to be considered joint working arrangements instead.
- (iii) Approve the appointment of County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe to the Pennine Community Safety Partnership and the Pilkington Charitable Trust.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Law and Governance to finalise arrangements for the administration of the Emily Rainford Trust, the Marsden Heights Educational Foundation, and the Bostock Scholarship Fund.

Detail

Outside bodies play an important part in fulfilling the county council's statutory responsibilities, meeting its corporate priorities, and in building positive relationships with the communities it serves. The list of outside bodies that county council representatives are appointed to is monitored and reviewed by Democratic Services.

Following the Political Governance Working Group's meetings on 17 May and 21 September 2023, Cabinet is asked to agree the proposed Protocol on County Council Appointments to Outside Bodies, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

The protocol seeks to standardise county councillor appointments to outside bodies and the responsibilities of appointed members. It sets out that outside bodies should meet certain criteria and therefore fall into one of three categories:

- Strategic
- Ward-based
- General

These categories, along with updated information from the organisations and members' feedback, have been used to review the county council's list of outside bodies.

The Political Governance Working Group's feedback included a query as to whether, in line with the proposed protocol, all the bodies with formal county council appointments should be considered outside bodies. In particular, a number of bodies were identified for which the county council has sole or joint responsibility, and these are therefore not properly considered to be "outside bodies".

Accordingly, it is proposed to remove the following from the county council's list of outside bodies and instead consider them to be joint working arrangements:

- Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee
- Joint Advisory Committee for Strategic Planning
- Lancashire Local Access Forum
- Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), Lancashire SACRE Quality and Standards Sub-Group, and the SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference
- Lancashire Schools Forum
- Lancashire Waste Partnership
- Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire
- Public Rights of Way and Access Forum
- Tobacco/Smokefree Alliance

Appointments already made to the authorities and committees listed above for the term of the current council will remain in place. Following the next Lancashire County Council Election in 2025, appointments to these bodies will be made separately to the outside body appointments process.



Cabinet is asked to agree the updated list of outside bodies and county councillor appointments as set out at Appendix 'B'. This includes two additions to the list of outside bodies: the Pennine Community Safety Partnership and the Pilkington Charitable Trust.

Pennine Community Safety Partnership

The Pennine Community Safety Partnership is the statutory partnership covering the areas of Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the county council is a responsible authority, which means it has a statutory duty to work in partnership with other responsible authorities to reduce crime and disorder. The statutory partners work together to protect local communities from crime, focusing on local issues and priorities. They reassess local crime priorities on a yearly basis and develop community safety plans in consultation with partners and the local community.

This report therefore seeks approval for the Pennine Community Safety Partnership to be added to the county council's list of outside bodies and proposes that County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe be nominated as the county council's representative on the body until the next Lancashire County Council Election in May 2025.

Pilkington Charitable Trust

The Pilkington Charitable Trust is administered by Nelson and Colne College and it awards prizes to students moving from college onto higher education. The trustees meet annually to review applications to the fund and to agree how the Trust's money will be awarded. When the Trust was established, a co-opted trustee was agreed from Lancashire County Council, as Local Education Authority.

This report therefore seeks approval for the Pilkington Charitable Trust to be added to the county council's list of outside bodies and proposes that County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe be nominated as the county council's representative on the body until the next Lancashire County Council Election in May 2025.

Other Educational Trusts and Funds

Some of the outside bodies listed at Appendix 'B' are small funds which the county council, sometimes in partnership with other authorities, is entitled to administer. These include:

- Emily Rainford Trust
- Marsden Heights Educational Foundation
- Bostock Scholarship Fund

In some cases, there are relatively complex administrative structures in place which have made distributing the funds and delivering the aims of the organisations difficult. Work is underway to explore alternative delivery models for these bodies which would enable the funding to be used as originally intended.



Cabinet is therefore asked to authorise the Director of Law and Governance to, where possible, finalise arrangements for these funds so that the money they hold can be distributed in line with the funds' objectives.

Appendices

Appendices 'A' and 'B' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Protocol on County Council Appointments to Outside Bodies
Appendix 'B'	Updated List of Outside Bodies and Appointments

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

