

Report to Cabinet

June 2021

Review and Appointments to Outside Bodies

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

Outside bodies are external organisations, including partnerships to which the County Council is a party, which have requested that the County Council appoints an elected member or a representative to them or to which the Council expects to make appointments. Following the recent County Council election the Cabinet is asked to review the Outside Bodies list to ensure it is fit for purpose and to consider the appointments to those Outside Bodies appointments to which fall to the Leader and Cabinet (Appendix C).

Recommendations

That Cabinet approves:

1. Appointments are no longer made by the County Council to the Outside Bodies listed in Appendix A and that they be deleted from the County Council's Outside Bodies list.
2. The Outside Bodies listed in Appendix B, part 1, are retained, along with any additions of new Outside Bodies, to which the Cabinet, Cabinet Members or Committees appoint as set out in that table and that each of these appointments be an approved duty for which expenses can be claimed.
3. Appointments are made by the Leader, Cabinet and Cabinet Members to the Outside Bodies as listed in Appendix B, part 2, until the end of the term of the County Council in May 2025.
4. That any vacancies remaining be reviewed by the Cabinet at the July meeting.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Council maintains a list of outside bodies which have requested that the County Council appoints an elected member or a representative to them.
Participation in outside bodies:

- Contributes to the County Council's strategic functions, priorities or community leadership roles.
 - Supports partnership and joint working.
 - Enables Members to gain and share knowledge and expertise.
- 1.2 The criteria for appointments to outside bodies as set out in the Constitution are:
- That the interests of the County Council can be assisted by the making of the appointment or renewal of the appointment.
 - That the Councillor is able to devote the time needed to meet the expectations of the external body and the Council.
 - That, where the external body has a geographical limit to its functions, whether the Councillor's Division falls within or close to that area should be taken into consideration.
 - That the Councillor has the knowledge, skills or interest in the work of the organisation that may be required.
 - That the Councillor is prepared to provide such information on his or her participation in the work of the outside body as may be required.
- 1.3 All Councillors are eligible to be appointed as representatives of the County Council on outside bodies. Political proportionality does not apply to the arrangements for making appointments to outside bodies. The decision maker can consider whether a person who is not an elected member may be more suited to act as the appointee of the County Council in any particular case. Councillors appointed to outside bodies must respond to all reasonable requests for information about the work of the outside body and their participation in it.
- ## **2 Proposal details**
- 2.1 A review of the outside bodies to which the County Council appoints takes place at the beginning of each new Council term, and once appointments to other member roles have been made, in order to assess whether appointments continue to be relevant to its priorities and what considerations should apply to particular appointments. It is also important to ensure that elected members' time is spent effectively and productively.
- 2.2 All outside bodies to which the County Council made appointments during the previous Council term were approached to confirm that they still required, or wished to have, County Council representation. As a result of this review, a number of outside bodies, as listed in Appendix A, are recommended for removal from the County Council's list, for reasons set out in that table. A number of outside bodies are also proposed to be added to the list as set out in Appendix B, for reasons set out in that Appendix.
- 2.3 The Cabinet is also asked to confirm the appointments to the outside bodies which precept on the County Council. The list of the outside bodies for appointment by the Cabinet is set out in Appendix B. Following the decisions of the Cabinet and the Cabinet Members the relevant Committees will be asked to take a decision to confirm their respective appointments.
- 2.4 In respect of any appointment where the Cabinet or Cabinet Member is not yet in a position to make a final appointment these will be deferred and reviewed at

the next meeting of the Cabinet or dealt with by the relevant Cabinet Member at the appropriate time.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 The Cabinet may choose not to appoint to outside bodies but should consider whether there are any implications arising for the County Council by not making those appointments.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 All outside bodies to which the County Council has made appointments during the previous Council term have been contacted for information and terms of reference. A number of responses and representations were made.
- 4.2 The Cabinet has been consulted on the review of outside bodies to ensure that the County Council continues to appoint to bodies that assist the County Council and are consistent with its priorities.

5 Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial or resource implications.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Conflicting interests	All councillors appointed to an outside body must declare a personal interest in any business of the county council where it relates to a body to which they are appointed to by the county council.
Ineffectiveness in the role	Appointees should obtain key documents regulating the organisation - constitution or terms of reference - to ensure they are aware of what the body does and receive a briefing on it and their role within it

- 6.1 There is a risk in not making such appointments as this could hinder the County Council in furthering its interests and priorities, and not develop the wider community role of Members.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 The equality duty is not applicable as this report deals with appointments to outside bodies. There are no social value, crime and disorder or human rights implications.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Outside Bodies recommended for removal from the list

Appendix B – Outside Bodies recommended for retention/addition to the list and to which the Leader and Cabinet will appoint.

Background papers

None