

Report to Cabinet

July 2021

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

Outside bodies are external organisations, including formal or informal partnerships to which the County Council is a party, which have requested that the County Council appoint an Elected Member or a representative to them or to which the Council expects to make appointments.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Appoints Cllr Sarah Payne to fill the vacancy on the Chichester Harbour Conservancy for the remainder of the Council term (May 2025)
2. Appoints Cllr Gary Markwell to replace Cllr Alison Cooper on the Littlehampton Harbour Board for the remainder of the Council term (May 2025).
3. Appoints Cllr John Charles to replace Cllr Gary Markwell on the Littlehampton Harbour Board Advisory Body for the remainder of the Council term (May 2025).
4. Appoints Cllr Deborah Urquhart to the Shoreham Harbour Joint Leaders Board for the remainder of the Council term (May 2025).
5. Appoints Cllr Nigel Jupp to the Duke of Edinburgh Award for the remainder of the Council term (May 2025).
6. Appoints Mrs Angela Smith as the Vice-Chairman on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

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 The Cabinet is responsible for making member appointments to outside bodies both collectively and individually within their portfolio area. The Cabinet made appointments to the majority of Outside Bodies in June 2021 (CAB01(21/22)). A further decision was taken by the Leader in early July. This decision report seeks to deal with any remaining appointments to be taken by the Cabinet collectively, and individual Cabinet Member appointments.
- 2.2 Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Littlehampton Harbour Board are organisations which precept upon the County Council and representation should ideally be by local members or those with an interest or connection with the work of the harbours and their role in their local communities. In the case of the Shoreham Harbour Joint Leaders' Board the appointment should be that of a member of with executive powers relevant to the area of business. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has close connections with the schools across the County.
- 2.3 Each local education authority is required to constitute a standing advisory council on religious education (SACRE). The chairman and vice chairman shall be appointed by the local authority and shall serve for the duration of the SACRE. On 13 July, SACRE proposed Mrs Angela Smith, Church of England to hold the position of Vice-Chairman on the Committee. This report therefore, in addition to councillor appointments to other outside bodies, seeks to formally appoint Mrs Smith as Vice-Chairman on SACRE.

2.4 The Cabinet is asked to confirm the above and additional member appointments to the outside bodies as set out in Appendix 2.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

3.1 The Leader 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 – Additional nominations to outside bodies

Background papers

None