

Report to the Leader

June 2022

Appointment to an Outside Body

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 and to which the Council expects to make appointments or which have requested that the County Council appoint an elected member or a representative to them.

Recommendations

That the Leader:

Appoints Cllr James Walsh as the second West Sussex County Council representative on the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for a term of 1 year.

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 usually apply to the arrangements for making appointments to outside bodies but it applies in the current case. 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 Leader is responsible for making member appointments to outside bodies where not related to the portfolio area of another cabinet member. The Sussex Police and Crime Panel scrutinises and monitors the plans and performance of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner by scrutinising performance and ensuring transparency. The Panel is made up of representatives from the 15 local authorities across Sussex, and the proportionality of those members is reviewed on an annual basis by reference to the political proportionality of the full complement of authorities eligible to nominate members.

2.2 Following a review of political membership proportionality on the Sussex Police and Crime Panel, West Sussex County Council has been asked to appoint a representative from the Liberal Democrat Group in addition to the member appointed by the Council from the Conservative group. The nomination for this appointment, made by the group leader of the Liberal Democrat group, is Cllr James Walsh.

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. In this case the proportionality arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel governance mean that there is no alternative to the appointment of a Liberal Democrat councillor and the identity of the nominee must be a matter for that group on the Council.

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. Those are held in relation to the Police and Crime Panel.

4.2 The Cabinet was consulted on the review of outside bodies in June 2021 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.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact Officer: Natalie Jones-Punch, Democratic Services Officer, 033 022 25908, natalie.jones-punch@westsussex.gov.uk

Appendices

None

Background papers

None