

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2017/18 (NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS) (REP1472)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To consider Council appointments to statutory and non-statutory Outside Bodies for 2017 /18 as outlined on Appendix A.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	Some Outside Body appointments are of a strategic nature, whilst others are directly related to a particular area or Ward.
Cabinet Member:	Leader of the Council
Supporting Officer:	<p>Hilary Slater Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal & Democratic Services (01394) 444336 hilary.slater@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</p>

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council appoints annually to a wide range of diverse Outside Bodies each municipal year. Some appointments to Outside Bodies are made because of a statutory requirement to appoint one or more Councillors to them. The Constitution of several of the Outside Bodies decree that the Councillor appointed to them must come from a Member of the Ruling Group on the Council, whilst others require representation from particular Wards or are political appointments. Most appointments to Outside Bodies are discretionary taking into consideration how representation on them adds value in terms of contributing towards the Council's priorities and strategic objectives.
- 1.2 This report deals with Councillor representation on Outside Bodies where the role relates to a Non-Executive function carried out by the local authority. In cases where the Outside Bodies allow substitutes, Council will consider such appointments alongside the Cabinet Member appointment even if it relates to an Executive function.
- 1.3 The Cabinet will, at its meeting in June 2017, consider representation on Outside Bodies where the role relates to an Executive function of the local authority and where the relevant Cabinet Member is the most appropriate representative.
- 1.4 Appointment of Members to Outside Bodies provides support to the organisation concerned, enables Councillors to fulfil their community leadership roles and enables appropriate monitoring of performance / budgets in line with best practice.
- 1.5 Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies are able to work with and alongside local community groups, helping to empower them to in terms of addressing local issues and delivering sustainable solutions.
- 1.6 Appointments made to Outside Bodies should be sensitive to the need to represent, as far as possible, the diverse nature of the local community.
- 1.7 Local Government Association Special Interest Group (SIG) – Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF) – Waveney District Council is able to appoint a Member representative to this SIG either as a 'Contributing Member' with voting rights and a membership fee of £665 a year or as a 'Corresponding Member' with no voting rights and no fee. When considering Council appointments to this outside body, Members are also requested to clarify whether the appointment is to be as a 'Contributing Member' or as a 'Corresponding Member'. Currently no budget has been allocated for payment of a membership fee for this SIG.

2 EVALUATION PROCESS

- 2.1 In the past, Councillors and Outside Body representatives have been asked to complete and return an evaluation form to enable an assessment of the value of the Council's representation during the previous year. In this way, Outside Body representation has been streamlined to ensure best use of resources whilst retaining support for key community groups and organisations.
- 2.2 A regular review of the list of Outside Bodies helps to ensure relevance and appropriateness of membership by applying basic criteria including the following:-

- The appointment is necessary to fulfil one or more of the Council's statutory functions.
- The appointment is necessary to protect the Council's investment and assets
- There was not a significant cost and resource implication for the Council when measured against any accrued benefit.
- The balance or risk of any detrimental impact on the Council, if it were not represented.
- The appointment raises the profile of the Council at a national or regional level
- The appointment furthers the Council's corporate priorities which are outlined in the Council's East Suffolk Business Plan for 2015 – 2023.
- The Council works in partnership with a number of the Outside Bodies in a variety of ways, some more directly than others because of the existence of service level agreements or by holding corporate positions on organisations because of legal agreements.

2.3 There is an obligation imposed upon the Council to appoint to a number of the Outside Bodies either because it is a statutory requirement or a requirement of the Outside Body's Constitution (these organisations are marked with an asterisk*).

3 CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES

3.1 A schedule detailing nominations to Outside Bodies, as submitted by the Conservative and Labour Group Leaders, the Independent Members and by the Green Party Member, will be circulated at the Annual Council meeting on 17 May 2017.

3.2 The following Outside Bodies have been removed from the schedule as follows:

Marina Theatre Trust – appointment not required due to transfer to Lowestoft Town Council.

Suffolk Rail Policy Group – no longer in operation.

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Those Members formally appointed to external organisations as the Council's representative are able to claim expenses in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

4.2 Appointments to Outside Bodies enhance the Councillors' representative and community leadership role. Councillor representation also enables positive influence on the effectiveness of an organisation for the benefit of the wider community.

4.3 Appointments to Outside Bodies may be made under the general power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 - to do anything which is likely to promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area, unless specifically prohibited.

4.4 The process of Council approving appointments to Outside Bodies where the role relates to a Non-Executive function of the Council is consistent with the Articles within the Constitution.

- 4.5 Appointments may also be made in accordance with specific powers or statutory duties to participate in Outside Bodies.
- 4.6 Details of the Council's representation on Outside Bodies are included on the Council's website, along with Councillor representation on Committees and Working Groups.
- 4.7 A schedule detailing the Outside Bodies on which Waveney District Council representation is sought will be circulated at the Council meeting on 17 May 2017 as Appendix A to this report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Officers were consulted regarding future / on-going representation on the groups / bodies listed. Other key partners have been consulted where appropriate.

6 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None – The Council needs to engage and work with external organisations to deliver the priorities identified within the Council's East Suffolk Business Plan for 2015 – 2023.

7 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To enable appropriate Council representation on Outside Bodies for the 2017/18 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors be appointed to those Outside Bodies for the 2017/18 municipal year, as outlined in Appendix A.

APPENDICES	
Appendix A	Schedule of Outside Bodies and associated nominations for 2017/18 as supplied by the Conservative and Labour Group Leaders, the Independent Members and by the Green Party Member. (To be circulated at the meeting)

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None