

Committee: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 9 June 2022

Title of Report: Review of Appointments to Cabinet Working Groups, Other Bodies and on Outside Bodies

Report by: Dawn Roberts, Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

Cabinet Member: Stewart Young, Leader of the Council

What is the Report About? (Executive Summary)

1. This report asks Cabinet to consider its appointments to cabinet working groups and other bodies, and on outside bodies.

Recommendation of the Executive Director

2. **Recommendation 1** – That Cabinet approve the list of outside bodies at Part D of Appendix 1 as the bodies to which a representative will be appointed in 2022/23, and appoint the members to each outside body as set out in Part D of Appendix 1.
3. **Recommendation 2** – That the proposed membership as set out in Appendix 1 Parts A – C of cabinet working groups and other bodies to this report be approved.
4. **Recommendation 3** - That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make changes to the list of outside bodies and the appointed members as set out in Appendix 1 – Part D – Cabinet appointments to outside bodies as required in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Background to the Proposals

5. Cabinet annually reviews its appointments to Cabinet working groups, other bodies and outside bodies, including bodies that the County Council is required to establish by law.
6. Following Cabinet's consideration of a report on outside bodies from a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in May 2012, it was agreed that the number of outside bodies to which the authority appointed member representatives should be regularly reviewed using an appropriate set of criteria for establishing whether Member representation is appropriate.
7. The agreed criteria in terms of deciding whether to appoint members to an outside body are:

- Whether the County Council has a statutory duty to be involved;
 - Is membership of the body essential to the work of the Council and delivery of its service areas;
 - Are Cabinet/Elected Members required to attend because of their specific role within the authority; and/or,
 - Will the outside body/County Council would derive a significant benefit from the engagement of a local Member.
8. In addition, Cabinet also agreed that consideration could be given to adopting a risk based approach when further defining these criteria – the Council should have a clear understanding of the rationale for involvement with an outside body on a case by case basis, and therefore an awareness of any risks the cessation of member representation on, or engagement with, an outside body may pose.
9. A full review of outside bodies was undertaken in June 2013 and Cabinet significantly rationalised the list of approved outside bodies at that time. Given the scale of that review, only ‘light touch’ reviews have been carried out in subsequent years.
10. Executive Directors have been consulted as to the recommendations to be made to Cabinet for appropriate outside bodies for the year 2022/23.
11. Members are asked to note that 3 Local Government Association Boards now appear on the list separately as they are not appointed to by Cabinet but through the LGA’s political proportionality processes at national level. These are the LGA Resources Board, the LGA Community Wellbeing Board, and the LGA Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board.
12. Cabinet is also asked to consider appointments to working groups and other bodies as contained in Parts A - C of Appendix 1.

Options Considered and Risks Identified

Option (a)

- Members could approve the recommendations and proposed appointments.

Option (b)

- Members could decide not to appoint members to certain bodies following consideration of the recommendations and rationale provided in this report.

Option (c)

- Members could decide to make other appointments to bodies, providing reasons for their decision.

Risks

The risks and opportunities of engagement in outside and other bodies need to be reviewed regularly to ensure that benefit is derived for the Council from involvement. Withdrawal from specific bodies may not be in the interests of the Council in terms of delivery of priorities and may come with reputational risks.

Reasons for the recommendation/Key benefits

- To ensure that the Council engages effectively in outside and other bodies and that membership of Cabinet working groups is appropriate.

Financial – What Resources will be needed and how will it be Funded?

13. There are sufficient resources available within existing budgets to support the recommendations contained in this report.

Legal Aspects – What needs to be considered?

14. Cabinet has authority under the Constitution to make appointments to bodies associated with Cabinet functions.]

Health and Safety – what needs to be considered/noted?

15. The Council has a legal duty under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that adequate health and safety arrangements are in place for employees, members and the community we serve.
16. The appointment of elected members to the outside bodies highlighted in the report provides a positive opportunity for elected members to promote and champion strong health and safety governance arrangements and ensure a positive health and safety culture is actively considered through the outside body work programmes in line with the commitments outlined in the County Council Annual Health and Safety Policy Statement last agreed by Cabinet in September 2020.

Council Plan – How do the proposals contribute to the delivery of the Council's stated outcomes?

17. Engagement in outside and other bodies and the operation of Cabinet working groups support the delivery of all three of the outcomes set out in the Council Plan 2018 - 2022.

What is the Impact of the Decision on Health Inequalities and Equality and Diversity Issues?

18. There are no direct impacts on health inequalities and equality and diversity issues from the appointment of Members to outside and other bodies and Cabinet working groups.

Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix 1 Parts A - C Cabinet Sub Groups and Other Bodies

Appendix 1 Part D – Cabinet Appointments to Outside Bodies

Key Facts

Electoral Division(s): All

Executive Decision	Key Decision Included in Forward Plan	Exempt from call-in	Exemption agreed by scrutiny chair	Considered by scrutiny, if so detail below	Environmental or sustainability assessment undertaken?	Equality impact assessment undertaken?
√	Non key		N/A	No	No	No

Approved by Cabinet Member/s on TBC 19 May 2022

Previous relevant Council or Executive decisions

Cabinet Report Scrutiny Review – Outside Bodies Task & Finish Group – 10 May 2012

Appointment of Cabinet Working Group and Representation on Outside Bodies – 10 June 2021

Consideration by Overview & Scrutiny

Not considered by Overview & Scrutiny

Background Papers

None

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