

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP

DATE: 1 April 2010

TITLE	Outside Bodies Policy	ITEM NO.
REPORT OF	Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic	3

PURPOSE	To inform the Advisory Group of the approval of the Outside Bodies Policy by the General Purposes Committee.
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ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	On 25 August 2009, the Advisory Group considered an advice note providing general guidance in relation to Members' role on outside bodies. Members requested that a formal policy be drawn up. This was considered by the Group on 25 January 2010 and subsequently approved by the General Purposes Committee at its meeting held on 10 February 2010.
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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Policy on Outside Bodies be circulated to all Members for inclusion in the Councillors' Guide.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Advisory Group at its meeting held on 25 January 2010 endorsed the Policy on Outside Bodies subject to:

- (a) Recognition being given within the policy to those bodies which, whilst not part of the Council's formal governance structure, are in effect informal Council-initiated consultative or liaison forums (eg leisure centre joint consultative groups) and which do not therefore strictly fall within the definition of the category "outside bodies" set out in paragraph 1 of the policy";
 - (b) Review of the list of outside bodies to ensure that it is correct;
 - (c) A requirement for outside bodies to provide all the necessary information including indemnity arrangements, before agreement is given to the appointment of a Council representative.
2. The General Purposes Committee, at its meeting held on 10 February 2010, endorsed the Outside Bodies Policy with the further amendments proposed by this Group. The Committee also requested that all Members who have been appointed to an outside body be asked to report in 6 months time on the value or not of the Council continuing to appoint Members after May 2011 on the basis of the criteria set out in paragraph 3 of the policy.
 3. A copy of the revised policy is attached at Appendix A.
 4. Members will also be aware that a seminar in relation to outside bodies, presented by Peter Keith-Lucas, of Bevan Brittain, was held on 3 March 2010.
 5. In accordance with the Group's previous decision, it is now proposed that the Outside Body Policy should be circulated for inclusion in the Councillors' Guide.

Contact Officer Details:	Key Background Papers:
Barbara Morris	None