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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 19 May 2011  
**Subject:** Appointments to Outside Bodies

**Report of:** Monitoring Officer

**Summary:** The report outlines the expectation for fresh appointments to be made to up to **85** outside bodies, and as the next ordinary meeting of full Council is not until 21 July 2011, suggests delegating approval of a final schedule of bodies and making the actual appointments to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with Group Leaders.

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Contact Officer: Mel Peaston, Committee Services Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

The schedule lists a wide variety of organisations, ranging from statutory bodies to grant-making charities and from local government assemblies/joint bodies to very local community-based projects. As such, Member participation will in some cases be crucial to Council priorities, in others will foster community engagement at ward level and/or help raise Central Bedfordshire Council's profile in the community.

### **Financial:**

Under the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2011/12, attendance at outside bodies as the Council's duly appointed representative is an approved duty for the purpose of paying travelling and subsistence allowances, subject to no such allowances being claimed by the Member from the outside body concerned.

### **Legal:**

Membership requirements may be governed by various statutory, constitutional or informal provisions, of which further details are available on request.

### **Risk Management:**

Members will no doubt wish to keep the extent of representation under review to ensure it is of clear benefit to the Council and/or the population of Central Bedfordshire, and avoid placing excessive demands on Members' time.

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None.

**Community Safety:**

None (other than appointment to the Community Safety Partnership).

**Sustainability:**

Several of the bodies have an important role in the wider sustainability agenda.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. that the schedule of outside bodies to which Council appointments may be made, as attached to this report at Appendix A, be noted pending further consultations with Group Leaders;**
- 2. that the Monitoring Officer be authorised, in consultation with Group Leaders, to approve the final schedule of outside bodies, to make the necessary appointments and to inform the Members and organisations concerned;**
- 3. that existing appointments be extended until 31 August 2011 or until fresh appointments are made, whichever is the earlier, where the representatives appointed in June 2009 continue to be Central Bedfordshire Council Members.**

1. Under the Council's constitution (B6 Local Choice Functions, paragraph 18) appointments to outside bodies are a Council function, to be exercised initially after a new Council is elected, with authority thereafter for the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make new appointments, fill vacancies, approve variations to existing appointments and delete organisations from the approved list. It should be noted that 18 organisations which previously had Council representation have stated that there is no longer a need for appointments.
2. In the light of the shortage of time between the election and the annual meeting, it is anticipated that political groups would wish to have some time to consider both the extent of representation required from the new 59-Member Council and whether it should be continued as before or further streamlined, and the nominations themselves. This is therefore a holding report asking the Council to authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to approve the final schedule of outside bodies to which appointments will be made; and meanwhile to extend the appointments of continuing Members until those appointments are made, assuming this will be not later than 31 August 2011.

3. It is appreciated that this may mean a few gaps in representation where former Members are no longer serving Central Bedfordshire councillors, but it is hoped that the more strategic bodies will continue to have sufficient representation, should they have meetings arranged in the period between the Council's annual meeting and the end of August.

**Appendices:**

A - Schedule of Outside Bodies.

**Background Papers:**

None.