

Central Bedfordshire Council

Council

- 21 May 2015

Appointments to Outside Bodies

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Purpose of this report

1. The report outlines the process for appointments to be made to up to 85 outside bodies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to agree:

1. that the schedule of outside bodies to which Council appointments may be made, 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 to them and to inform the Members and organisations concerned;
3. that existing appointments be extended until 11 September 2015 or until fresh appointments are made, whichever is the earlier, while the representatives appointed in May 2011 continue to be Central Bedfordshire Council Members.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. This matter is not for consideration by overview and scrutiny.

Issues

3. Under the Council's Constitution (B6 Local Choice Function, paragraph 18) making appointments to outside bodies is a Council function, to be exercised initially when a new Council is elected, with authority thereafter for the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make new appointments, fill vacancies, approve variations to the 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 to them.
4. In the light of the brief period 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 Council and whether it should be continued as before or further streamlined, as well as the individual nominations. 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 in the meantime to extend the appointments of continuing Members until those appointments are made, assuming this will be not later than 11 September 2015.
5. 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.

Council Priorities

6. The schedule lists a wide variety of organisations, ranging from statutory organisations 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 may help raise Central Bedfordshire Council's profile in the community.

Legal Implications

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

Financial Implications

8. Under the Members' Allowances Scheme, 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.

Equalities Implications

9. None.

Risk Management

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

Sustainability

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

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached:

12. Appendix A – Schedule of Outside Bodies.

Background Papers

13. None