

**Agenda Item: 16**

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**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 18 June 2009

**Subject:** Appointments to Outside Bodies

**Report of:** Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic

**Summary:** The report outlines the expectation for fresh appointments to be made to up to 88 outside bodies, and as the next ordinary meeting of full Council is not until 24 September 2009, suggests delegating the functions approving a final schedule of bodies and making the actual appointments to the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic, in consultation with Group Leaders.

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Contact Officer: Rob Mills, Committee Services Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That the schedule of outside bodies to which Council appointments may be made, as attached to this report, be noted pending further consultations with Group Leaders.**
- 2. That the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic 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 temporary appointments be extended until 31 August 2009 or until fresh appointments are made, whichever is the earlier, where the representatives appointed in March 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 Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make new appointments, fill vacancies, approve variations to existing appointments and delete organisations from the approved list.

2. In March 2009 temporary Member appointments were made under the shadow constitution to 82 out of 88 outside bodies of various descriptions, as listed in the attached schedule. In view of the impending reduction from 124 Members to 66 Members, the appointments were to run from 1 April until 8 June 2009, when the representation would be reviewed again. Appointments to another 6 bodies were deferred until after the election (one of these requiring nomination in 2011).
3. These appointments followed a review of nearly 200 outside bodies to which one or more of the three legacy authorities had previously made appointments. This review included a survey of the bodies themselves and consultation with former Member representatives to assess the value of continuing such representation in Central Bedfordshire. As a result, a number of bodies were removed from the schedule either because local government reorganisation had made them redundant, because the bodies had changed their membership requirements, because they were dormant or could not be traced, or because Members had questioned the value of continued representation. The revised schedule also removed some duplication where two or more of the legacy authorities had previously made appointments and the organisation was asked to suggest how many Central Bedfordshire Members it wished to be appointed. A few bodies were added where required by the reorganisation process.
4. In the light of the shortage of time between the election and the annual meeting, it was expected that political groups would wish to have some time to consider both the extent of representation required from the new 66-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 Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic, 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 2009.
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 might continue to have sufficient representation, should they have meetings arranged in the period between the Council's annual meeting and the end of August.
6. Given the constitutional requirement in paragraph 1 above for full Council itself to make appointments to outside bodies only after an election, it is suggested that fresh appointments now be made for a term until the Council election in 2011, unless otherwise required by the outside bodies' own governing instruments.

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
<p><b>Council Priorities:</b></p> <p>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's profile in the community.</p>

**Financial:**

Under the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2009/10, 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.

**Appendices:**

Schedule of Outside Bodies.

**Background Papers:**

None.