

Representation on outside bodies 2022 to 2023

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| Report number: | AGM/WS/22/002 | |
| Report to and date: | Annual Council | 17 May 2022 |
| Cabinet member: | Councillor John Griffiths Leader of the Council Telephone: 01284 757001 Email: john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |
| Lead officer: | Teresa Halliday Service Manager (Legal and Governance) and Monitoring Officer Telephone: 01284 757144 Email: teresa.halliday@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |

Decisions Plan: **This report refers to non-executive matters and therefore is not required to be included on the Decisions Plan.**

Wards impacted: **None**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that:**

- 1. The Service Manager (Legal and Governance) and Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to appoint the Council's representatives on outside bodies, in accordance with the nominations put forward by relevant Group Leaders, or the nominated body, or the individual listed, as detailed in Appendix A to Report number: AGM/WS/22/002.**

- 2. Where no representative is nominated, the Service Manager (Legal and Governance) and Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to seek nominations from other bodies and individuals, to be approved by Council in due course.**
- 3. The Council notes that where the outside organisation is discharging executive functions, or the Council is an observer on an organisation, these appointments will be made by Cabinet.**
- 4. The Council notes that it is intended to continue to review representation on outside bodies to ensure that it remains beneficial for the organisation and for the Council.**
- 5. The Council notes that the nominations to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, be proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for subsequent confirmation by Council.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 The Constitution requires that at each Annual Meeting, the Council reviews its representation on outside bodies (except where the appointment is made by another body, such as Cabinet).
- 1.2 The Council appoints to a wide range of outside bodies, from very local bodies where a local member is usually appointed, to national and regional bodies on which the Council is usually represented by the Leader or relevant portfolio holder. Councillors can also serve a variety of roles; some are simply observers to the organisation, in other cases councillors are a company director or charity trustee.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 The current list of outside body appointments, along with the Council's nominated representative, is included at Appendix A.
- 2.2 Following the election in 2019, a comprehensive process was undertaken to review the Council's representation with all members having opportunity to submit to their Group Leader if they would like to serve on outside bodies. Based on these nominations, the Monitoring Officer then confirmed the appointments.
- 2.3 As Appendix A highlights, there are a small number of vacancies at this time, and there may also be cases where councillors or Group Leaders wish to review appointments. As a result, it is proposed that following the Annual Council meeting, the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to confirm appointments following consultation with the Group Leaders. It is expected that in most cases the current appointment would continue. In the event that no consensus can be reached, then any appointments will be referred to the next meeting of Council.
- 2.4 In addition, it is also proposed that if there is no nomination amongst members to an outside body, the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to seek nominations from another body or individuals in order to obtain a nominee; and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to have authority to put forward representation on the Health Scrutiny Committee.

3. Alternative options that have been considered

- 3.1 The process of delegating the Monitoring Officer authority to make appointment on the nominations of Group Leaders ensures that appointments can be made efficiently to outside bodies.

3.2 Alternatively, Council can vote on each individual appointment at its next meeting, which can delay the process of making such appointments.

3.3 Within the recommendations it has also been proposed to continue to review our representation to ensure it remains beneficial for the organisation and the Council.

4. Consultation and engagement undertaken

4.1 None

5. Risks associated with the proposals

5.1 None

6. Implications arising from the proposals

6.9 External organisations (such as businesses, community groups): These proposals ensure that the Council appoints representatives, supporting the development of effective working relationships with the outside organisation and that they can meet in accordance with their constitution requirements.

7. Appendices referenced in this report

7.1 Appendix A: List of outside bodies and current representation

8. Background documents associated with this report

8.1 None