

Report To: Democratic Services Committee

Date of Meeting: 31st March 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Gary Williams

Report Author: Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

Title: Outside Bodies

1. What is the report about?

The report is about the appointment of elected members to various outside bodies.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek members' views on the advantages and disadvantages of the continued appointment of members to the outside bodies listed in Appendix 1

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That the Committee consider and comment upon the advantages and disadvantages of the continued appointment of elected members to the outside bodies listed in Appendix 1

3.2 That the Committee considers the guidance given to members on outside bodies in Appendix 2

4. Report details

4.1 In 2012, Cabinet received a report on the appointment of elected members to outside bodies and was asked to determine which of the bodies then listed should continue to have appointments made to them. As a result of that exercise the appointment of members to some outside bodies was discontinued.

4.2 Appendix 1 to the report sets out the bodies that are currently listed as being those to which members have been appointed.

4.3 Some of these bodies are statutory in nature such as the Police and Crime Panel and the Fire and Rescue Service.

4.4 Following the election in May 2017 Cabinet will be asked to make new appointments to outside bodies and members are asked for their views as to which bodies the Council should continue to appoint to.

4.5 The purpose of this report is to seek members' views as to the value in continuing to appoint to these bodies. In particular members' views are sought on

whether there are bodies that members feel play an important part in helping the council to deliver its corporate priorities.

4.6 It is important to note that a member who is appointed by the Council to represent it on an outside body is entitled to count attendance at a meeting of that body as an attendance at a council meeting for the purposes of determining whether their attendance meets the statutory minimum for continuing to hold office.

4.7 Members who are appointed to an outside body are expected to claim any expenses associated with their activity on that body from the body itself. Where that body does not have a scheme of expenses the member may claim any expenses under the Council's scheme.

4.8 The other issue relevant to the appointment of members is the requirement for them to report back to the Council on their work with that body. It is proposed that members who are to be appointed to an outside body be required to attend training on being a member of an outside body and how to report back to the Council.

4.9 Appendix 2 to the report is the Protocol and Guidance for Elected Members appointed to Outside Bodies. This forms the basis of the information provided to members as part of their training in respect of their roles on outside bodies.

4.10 Members are asked to consider to what extent members who represent the Council on outside bodies should report back to the Council and the most appropriate mechanism for this. Appendix 3 contains a draft reporting template for members on outside bodies to adopt for the Committee's consideration.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

There is no direct impact on corporate priorities other than that which the individual bodies may have as part of their operation.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs other than the potential for some expenses to be paid for the members of some bodies. There will be some officer time required to train members and to administer any reporting requirements.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report

There has been no impact assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

This is the first consultation with elected members in preparation for the new Council.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no direct financial consequences as a result of this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There is a potential risk that members may be appointed to bodies which do not have any contribution to make to the Council's corporate priorities and that they be involved in meetings that affects their ability to undertake Council work. There is a risk that not having elected members on some outside bodies may reduce the Council's influence and or impair relationships with stakeholders

11. Power to make the Decision

No decision is required