

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 23 October 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Hugh Evans – Leader of the Council
Gary Williams – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report Author: Rhys A Hughes – Democratic Services Officer

Title: Member Appointments to Outside Bodies

1. What is the report about?

The report proposes nominations of Members to represent Denbighshire County Council on a number of outside bodies.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required on which outside bodies Denbighshire County Council will nominate Members to serve as representatives of the Council, and who the Council's nominated representatives will be.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet considers List 1 (outside bodies where Denbighshire representation is considered essential or corporately advantageous) and List 2 (other organisations that Council representatives could be appointed to), as appended to the report and:

- (a) Approves the recommended appointments shown in List 1;
- (b) Determines which organisations in List 2 should have Council representation; and
- (c) Appoints the relevant councillors to the organisations approved by Cabinet from List 2.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 Prior to the Council election in May 2012, an exercise was undertaken to compile a comprehensive list of all of the external organisations that Members had been appointed to as representatives of DCC. Members were asked to return details of all positions held on outside bodies, and these bodies were contacted to establish full details of each organisation's terms of reference and the role that Members held in their governance.

4.2 A list of the outside bodies to which Members had previously been appointed to was circulated to the Leader and the Senior Leadership Team for consultation;

i) asking for confirmation of any relevant bodies that DCC might have an interest in appointing Members to serve as representatives; and

ii) seeking observations on the continued relevance of appointing Members to represent DCC on each of the bodies listed.

A revised list was then circulated to members via the leaders of the four political groups, asking for further clarification of the continued relevance of appointing members as DCC representatives.

4.3 Political groups were also requested to propose nominations to represent DCC on any relevant outside bodies and a shortlist of recommended appointments has been put forward (attached as Appendix 1).

4.4 Appointments to external organisations are delegated to appropriate Lead Members under the Council's Constitution, but due to the number of appointments that are required across a broad range of portfolio areas, the Cabinet is asked to approve these appointments through a collective decision.

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

The appointments are to be made to a range of organisations whose works complement DCC's work towards the Corporate Priorities, particularly in respect of developing the local economy, improving school standards, improving roads, protecting vulnerable people and in the provision of good quality housing.

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

Members may be eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses for attending meetings of outside bodies (see Schedule 2 of the Members' Scheme of Allowances in the Council's Constitution for details).

The organisations which charge a membership fee are the Mersey Dee Alliance (£6000 per year), the North Wales Economic Forum (£6000 per year) and Nuclear Free Local Authorities (£900).

7. What consultations have been carried out and has an Equality Impact Assessment Screening been undertaken?

The Leader of the Council, the Senior Leadership Team and Members of the Council, through the political group leaders, were consulted to establish which organisations DCC should nominate formal representatives to. The political groups were asked to submit expressions of interest from Members in representing the Council on any of the organisations listed, and officers who have worked with the outside bodies advised of appropriate Lead Members to take up positions.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Costs in connection with this matter will need to be contained within the overall budget for members' expenses. Consideration should be given as to whether any fees attached to membership of an organisation provide value for money to the council.

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

It is important that Members of the Council are involved in the governance of appropriate outside bodies whose work relates closely with DDC or impacts upon local communities and so, if these appointments are not made, there is a risk that the interests of DCC and the residents of Denbighshire are not fully considered in their governance. Cabinet's consideration should result in an approved, updated list of DCC representatives on appropriate outside bodies.

10. Power to make the Decision

Under Part 9 of the Council's Constitution [9.1, 1. (A), (c)] Cabinet Members have delegated authority to make appointments to external bodies whose remit lies wholly within the Cabinet Member's portfolio, excluding joint committees with other local authorities, for which appointments must be made by the Leader of the Council.

Due to the number and breadth of external bodies requiring Member appointments, this report asks for the Cabinet to make a collective decision to appoint Members to the organisations listed in Appendix 1.