

Individual Decision



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The attached report will be taken as an Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Friday 31 August 2018

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Individual Executive Member Decision

Outside Bodies - Amendments

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date ID to be signed:	31 August 2018
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Dominic Boeck
Forward Plan Ref:	ID3641

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider West Berkshire Council nominations to the following outside bodies:

- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners Board
- North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group
- Corn Exchange Trust

2. Recommendation

2.1 To agree the appointment of representatives on the following outside bodies:

- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners Board
- North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group
- Corn Exchange Trust

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** West Berkshire Council Members are not paid to attend Outside Body meetings but any costs associated with meeting attendance will be met from within existing Members Allowances budget, where the Outside Body does not pay these costs.
- 3.2 **Policy:** Appointments will be made in accordance with Part 13 Appendix J (Protocol for Council Representation on Outside Bodies) of the Council's Constitution.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** None.
- 3.4 **Legal:** None.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** None.
- 3.6 **Property:** None.

3.7 **Other:** None.

4. Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Graham Jones
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Councillor Emma Webster
Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Lee Dillon

Officers Consulted: Gabrielle Mancini

Trade Union: Not consulted

5. Other options considered

5.1 Not to appoint representatives.

6. Introduction/Background

- 6.1 The Council is required to appoint representatives to a range of Outside Bodies. The bulk of these appointments were made via an Individual Decision in June 2015 and the appointments were aligned to the Council's electoral cycle. From time to time, the authority is required to revisit these appointments for a variety of reasons. Three of the amendments proposed within this report result from the recent reorganisation of Executive portfolios. The amendment to the Corn Exchange nomination arises from the need to relieve the current representative of the additional pressure on her time, in her year as Chairman of Council.
- 6.2 Appointments will be made in accordance with Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council Representatives on Outside Bodies).

7. Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

- 7.1 Local Nature Partnerships originated from the Government's Natural Environment White Paper 2011, 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature'. In the paper, the Government recognised the importance of partnership work in delivering positive environmental change at a local level. The aim of the resulting 48 LNPs is to work within their local area, creating positive change through strategic, integrated management of the natural environment.
- 7.2 The Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum, which had been active in Berkshire for many years, initiated the formation of the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership. Many groups and organisations were consulted during the development of the Partnership, and an application to the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) was successful, giving official status to the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership in 2012. The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership held its first meeting in November 2012 and since then has developed a governance structure, constitution including specific objectives and an initial work plan.
- 7.3 The Berkshire LNP usually meets three to four times a year at Green Park in Reading. The LNP have requested that the West Berkshire Council representative be an elected Member and ideally the Executive Member for Environment. The representative will have voting rights but no legal responsibilities. The Council's Countryside Manager also attends the meetings of the Berkshire LNP.
- 7.4 Following a reorganisation of the Executive, it is proposed that Councillor Jeanette Clifford replaces Councillor Dominic Boeck.
- 7.5 The Member who has expressed an interest being nominated as Representative Member to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 31 August 2018.

8. North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners Board and North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group Board

- 8.1 The primary purpose of the North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners Board is to enhance and protect the natural beauty of North Wessex Downs. The Board produces, prepares and reviews a joint management plan. In addition, it is an advisory partnership body which acts as a catalyst and facilitator in forging consensus and making recommendations to its constituent bodies (including 10 other LAs) and other organisations on policies and the allocation of resources in relation to the protection and enhancement of the AONB.

- 8.2 The North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group Board determines the development strategy, bids for funding and makes decisions on individual grant applications for the LEADER Funding. LEADER is the EU funding provided to improve the rural economy and quality of life for people living and working in the North Wessex Downs Local Action Group area. Grants of up to approximately £50k are available to farmers, foresters, micro and small rural businesses and community enterprises.
- 8.3 Traditionally, the West Berkshire Council Portfolio Holder for Countryside represents the Council on both boards. In November 2016, Councillor Dominic Boeck was appointed as representative to both boards. Councillor Anthony Chadley had been appointed as substitute in June 2015.
- 8.4 Following a reorganisation of the Executive, Councillor Boeck wishes to stand down. Councillor Jeanette Clifford, whose portfolio includes Countryside, wishes to join both Boards.
- 8.5 It is proposed that Councillor Chadley will continue to represent West Berkshire Council on both boards as a substitute.
- 8.6 The Member who has expressed an interest being nominated as Representative Member to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 31 August 2018.

9. Corn Exchange Trust

- 9.1 The Corn Exchange Trust manages three key spaces; the Corn Exchange, which includes a 400 seat auditorium, a 40 seat independent cinema and thriving Kitchen & Bar; 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space for the development of large-scale outdoor performances and residencies; and the Learning Centre from which they run a participation programme 'Get Involved'.
- 9.2 The Council's current representative on the organisation is Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge but, due to the increasing pressure on her time in her role as Chairman of Council, it is proposed that she stands down.
- 9.3 Councillor Hilary Cole has expressed an interest in being appointed to the Trust for the outstanding duration of 2018/19.
- 9.4 The Member who has expressed an interest being nominated as Representative Member to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 31 August 2018.

10. Proposals

- 10.1 That the Council appoints representatives to the organisations as set out in the paragraphs above.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes:

No:

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aim:

MEC – Become an even more effective Council

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy

priorities:

- HQL1 – Support communities to do more to help themselves**
- MEC1 – Become an even more effective Council**

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11. Appendices

None.

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