

## Individual Executive Member Decision

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| <b>Title of Report:</b>                       | <b>Representation on Outside Bodies – Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, the Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority</b> |
| <b>Report to be considered by:</b>            | Individual Executive Member Decision   |
| <b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b> | 02 May 2013  |
| <b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>                      | ID2673   |

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**Purpose of Report:** To consider West Berkshire Council nominations to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, the Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

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**Recommended Action:** To agree the Council's representatives on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, the Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

**Reason for decision to be taken:** To ensure that the Council is represented on the outside organisations.  
The introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') introduced new structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability.

**Other options considered:** None

**Key background documentation:** None

| Portfolio Member Details         |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Name &amp; Telephone No.:</b> | Councillor Gordon Lundie |
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| Contact Officer Details |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Name:</b>            | Moira Fraser                              |
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## Implications

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Policy:</b>            | Appointments will be made in accordance with Part 13 Appendix J (Protocol for Council Representation on Outside Bodies) of the Council's Constitution  |
| <b>Financial:</b>         | <p>Members are not paid to attend Outside Body meetings however any costs associated with meeting attendance will be met from within existing Members Allowances budget.</p> <p>In terms of the Police and Crime Panel funding a payment request has now been submitted to the Home Office for the grant (£35,850) to fund costs of the Panel from October 2012-March 2013. A significant amount of the costs are to fund the Officer that supports the Panel but other costs include the Legal &amp; Democratic support to the Panel. This funding is expected to be received by Buckinghamshire County Council over April 2013. In terms of the funding arrangements for 2013/14, the process for 2013/14 will be similar in that the Panel spends, and costs are funded in arrears by the Home Office grant. The key difference being that this year it will be for the whole of the year, rather than just 6 months, so will be approximately £70k. In terms of member expenses, the cost of individual Member expenses was agreed to be met by the authority of that Member with of course the exception of the independent co-opted Members. Given the size of the TV Panel there can only be a maximum of 2 independent co-opted members.</p> |
| <b>Personnel:</b>         | <p>None for the Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust or the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.</p> <p>In terms of the Police and Crime Panel Buckinghamshire County Council will act as Host Authority, providing Scrutiny Officer and other secretariat support as needed to enable the Panel to undertake its functions.</p> <p>Any dedicated staff employed to support the Panel will be employed by the Host Authority, and as such their terms and conditions will be that of the Host Authority.</p>   |
| <b>Legal/Procurement:</b> | The introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') introduces new structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability.   |
| <b>Property:</b>          | None   |
| <b>Risk Management:</b>   | The Council indemnifies Members in certain circumstances – details are set out in Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council representatives on Outside Bodies).  |

| Is this item relevant to equality?   | Please tick relevant boxes | Yes                                 | No                                  |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:  |                            |                                     |                                     |
| • Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| • Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| • Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| • Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics? | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| • Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| <b>Outcome</b> (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)  |                            |                                     |                                     |
| Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at <a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk/eia">www.westberks.gov.uk/eia</a>                   |                            |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Not relevant to equality   |                            |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Consultation Responses

### Members:

**Leader of Council:** Gordon Lundie – no comments received

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Brian Bedwell – no comments received

**Ward Members:** N/a

**Opposition Spokesperson:** Jeff Brooks – no comments received

**Local Stakeholders:** Clare Gray, (Buckinghamshire County Council), Katy Griffiths, Director Corn Exchange and New Greenham Arts, Carolyn Rowe (Royal Berkshire Fire Authority)

**Officers Consulted:** Andy Day, Gillian Durrant, Robin Steel

**Trade Union:** Not consulted

| Is this item subject to call-in?  | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:  |  |                              |
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval  | <input type="checkbox"/>                 |                              |
| Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council  | <input type="checkbox"/>                 |                              |
| Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position  | <input type="checkbox"/>                 |                              |
| Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months | <input type="checkbox"/>                 |                              |
| Item is Urgent Key Decision   | <input type="checkbox"/>                 |                              |
| Report is to note only  | <input type="checkbox"/>                 |                              |

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required to appoint representatives to a range of Outside Bodies. The bulk of these appointments were made on the 02 June 2011 following the local elections. The Council has recently received notification that a Member appointed to one of these outside bodies (Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust) is no longer able to act as the Council's representatives on the organisation.
- 1.2 The Council has also been informed that, following a review of the electoral role numbers, there is a requirement to reduce the number of West Berkshire Council representatives on the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority from five to four members for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.
- 1.1 In addition the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) introduces new structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability. The Act requires Authorities to establish and maintain a Police and Crime Panel (the Panel). As the Thames Valley is a multi-authority police area a joint panel known as the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel has been set up. The Panel will comprise of 18 elected members (one from each Authority elected annually) and 2 co-optees. West Berkshire Council is therefore required to make its annual appointment to this Panel.
- 1.2 Appointments will be made in accordance with Appendix J to part 13 of The Constitution (Protocol for Council representatives on Outside Bodies).

### 2. Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust

- 2.1 The organisation, which is an independent charitable Trust, was established in 1993 to manage the Corn Exchange, Newbury. The Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust manages the Corn Exchange, a 400 seat theatre, 40 seat independent cinema and cafe; New Greenham Arts a studio theatre, artist studios and gallery; it presents a nationally recognised programme of world-class outdoor arts; and provides a year-round programme of participatory arts activity across the district. Under the terms of Trust's service level agreement, West Berkshire Council has the authority to appoint two Trustees to the organisation with legal responsibilities and voting rights. The council's representatives act on behalf of the Trust and are encouraged to attend events and performances that the Trust undertakes. Board meetings take place quarterly usually on a Wednesday at 5pm. Meetings usually take place at the Corn Exchange in the Market Place in Newbury.
- 2.2 The Council's current representatives on the organisation are Councillor Jeff Beck and Councillor John Horton. Due to work commitments Councillor Horton has had to resign his role as a Trustee to this group.
- 2.3 The following Member(s) have expressed an interest in being appointed to the Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust: Councillor Adrian Edwards and Councillor David Allen.

### **3. Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel**

- 3.1 The Panel will comprise 18 elected members (one from each Authority) and 2 co-optees. Appointments of elected Members to the Panel will be made in accordance with each Authorities own procedures with a view ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met so far as is reasonable practicable.
- 3.2 The balanced appointment objective requires that the Panel should (when taken together):
- (1) Represent all parts of the police area;
  - (2) Represent the political make-up of the Authorities;
  - (3) Have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
- 3.3 A Member shall be appointed annually to the Panel to hold office matching the Municipal Year, subject to the following provisos that he/she:
- (1) Shall cease to be a Member of the Panel if he/she ceases to be a member of:
    - (a) The Authority;
    - (b) The political group in the Authority when the appointment to hold office was made.
- 3.4 The Council's current representative on the organisation is Councillor Dominic Boeck.
- 3.5 The following Members have expressed an interest in being appointed to the panel: Councillor Geoff Mayes and Councillor Graham Jones.

### **4. Royal Berkshire Fire Authority**

- 4.1 Members are responsible for setting the Fire and Rescue Service operating budget and determining how the service is run. Meetings of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority take place in the evenings, on a quarterly basis, at various venues in the County. Members should note that a member appointed to this Fire Authority is expected to attend all Fire Authority meetings and to serve on at least one committee or working party. The schedule of meetings is appended to this report.
- 4.2 Appointments to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority are made on a proportionality basis based on the electoral roll. As a consequence of this the number of members has been reduced from 26 (in 2012/13) to 25 in 2013/14. The Fire Authority comprises local councillors appointed by the six unitary authorities in the county: Bracknell Forest Borough Council (3 seats); Reading Borough Council (5 seats); Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (4 seats); Slough Borough Council (4 seats); West Berkshire Council (4 seats) and Wokingham District Council (5 seats).
- 4.3 At the Executive meeting held on 17 May 2007, it was agreed that the decision regarding Member representation on this outside body would be delegated to the

Leader of the Council in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The appointments will be made based on the Council's proportionality rules.

- 4.4 The representatives for the 2012/13 period were Councillors Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, David Holtby and Emma Webster.
- 4.5 The following Members have expressed an interest in being nominated to this Outside Body: Councillors Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, David Holtby and Emma Webster.

## **5. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes**

- 5.1 There are no equalities issues associated with this report.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 That the Council appoints a representative to the Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust, four representatives to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel as set out in the paragraphs above.

## **Appendices**

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Appendix A – Schedule of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Meetings