

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP)
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	17 March 2016
Forward Plan Ref:	ID3079

Purpose of Report: To consider West Berkshire Council nominations to the following outside bodies:

- The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

Recommended Action: To agree the Council's representatives on the following outside bodies:

- The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

Reason for decision to be taken: To ensure that the Council is represented on its outside organisations.

Other options considered: Not to appoint representatives

Key background documentation: None

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Roger Croft
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Moira Fraser
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Implications

Policy:	Appointments will be made in accordance with Part 13 Appendix J (Protocol for Council Representation on Outside Bodies) of the Council's Constitution
Financial:	West Berkshire Council 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 where the Outside Body does not pay these costs.
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None

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"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)		
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at http://intranet/EqIA		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: NA

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: NA

Ward Members: NA

Opposition Spokesperson: NA

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted: Rob Alexander

Trade Union: Not consulted

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

Supporting Information

1. Background

1.1 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. The Council became aware of the need to appoint a representative to the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) after the bulk appointments were made. Ordinarily, this appointment will be dealt with as part of the bulk appointments (following the next District Council elections in May 2019), unless there is a need to review the appointment before that date.

1.2 Appointments will be made in accordance with Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council Representatives on Outside Bodies).

1.3 The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

1.4 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.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

1.7 In order to meet the Council's requirement to appointment a representative to the Berkshire LNP and their suggestion that it be the Executive Member for Environment, it is proposed that Councillor Hilary Cole fulfils this role as her portfolio includes Countryside.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

2.1 There are no equalities issues associated with this report.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 It is proposed that Councillor Hilary Cole, Executive Member for Social Care, Housing, Countryside, Community Culture and Leisure Service be appointed as the West Berkshire Council representative on the Berkshire LNP.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.