

Individual Executive Member Decision

Outside Body Appointments – Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date ID to be signed:	19 May 2016
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Roger Croft
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	3 rd May 2016
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2998

1. Purpose of the Report

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

- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Authority;
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

2. Recommendation

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

- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (four);
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (one);

3. Implications

- 3.1 **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.
- 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 except for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel where South Buckinghamshire District Council acts as Host Authority, providing Scrutiny Officer and other secretariat support as needed to enable the Panel to undertake its functions. 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.

- 3.4 **Legal:** The introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') introduced revised structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** 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).
- 3.6 **Property:** None
- 3.7 **Other:** None

4. Consultation Responses

Members:

- Leader of Council:** Councillor Roger Croft – emailed on the 03rd May 2016
- Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Councillor Emma Webster - emailed on the 03rd May 2016
- Ward Members:** Not applicable
- Opposition Spokesperson:** Councillor Alan Macro - emailed on the 03rd May 2016

Local Stakeholders: Fayth Rowe (RBFRS) and Clare Gray (SBDC)

Officers Consulted: Robert Alexander

Trade Union: Not applicable

5. Other options considered

- 5.1 Not to appoint representatives

6. Introduction

- 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 following the local elections. Where appropriate these appointments were aligned to the Council's electoral cycle and the bulk of these appointments were made for a four year period.
- 6.2 The Council is however required to make annual appointments to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. It was agreed that in 2015 these two appointments would be made by Full Council to expedite the decision making process but that in the following three years these appointments would revert to being Individual Decisions made by the Leader of the Authority as was agreed at the 17 May 2007 Executive meeting.

- 6.3 Outside Body appointments are made in accordance with Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council Representatives on Outside Bodies).

7. Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

- 7.1 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 the authority's Headquarters in Calcot, Reading. 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.
- 7.2 Appointments to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority are made on a proportionality basis based on the electoral roll. Following a decision made at the 25 April 2016 Fire Authority meeting it has been agreed that there will be 20 members appointed in 2016/17, a reduction of five members in total. The Fire Authority comprises local councillors appointed by the six unitary authorities in the county: Bracknell Forest Borough Council (3 seats); Reading Borough Council (3 seats); Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (3 seats); Slough Borough Council (3 seats); West Berkshire Council (4 seats) and Wokingham District Council (4 seats).
- 7.3 At the Executive meeting in May 2007 it was agreed that West Berkshire Council appointments will be made based on the Council's proportionality rules.
- 7.4 The representatives for the 2015/16 period were Councillors Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Anthony Chadley and Emma Webster.
- 7.5 The following Members have expressed an interest in being nominated to this Outside Body: Emma Webster, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Adrian Edwards, Alan Macro and Paul Bryant.

8. Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

- 8.1 The Panel comprises 18 elected members (one from each Authority) and 2 co-optees. Appointments of elected Members to the Panel are made in accordance with each Authorities own procedures with a view to ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met so far as is reasonable practicable.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 A Member shall be appointed annually to the Panel to hold office matching the Municipal Year, subject to the following provisos that he/she:
- (4) 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.

8.4 The Council's current representative on the organisation is Councillor Quentin Webb.

8.5 The following Member has expressed an interest in being appointed to the panel: Councillor Quentin Webb.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

9.1 There are no equalities issues associated with this report.

10. Conclusion

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

11. Supporting Information

11.1 Letter from the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service dated 28 April 2016.

Background Papers:

Part 13 Appendix J (Protocol for Council Representation on Outside Bodies) of the Council's Constitution

Report to and Minutes of the Executive on the 17th May 2007

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

Wards affected: All

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 priority:

HQL1 – Support communities to do more to help themselves

MEC1 – Become an even more effective Council

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy aims and priorities by ensuring that the authority is represented on these important bodies.

Officer details:

Name: Moira Fraser
Job Title: Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Tel No: 01635 519045
E-mail Address: moira.fraser@westberks.gov.uk
