

# Individual Executive Member Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Outside Body Appointments – amendments</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Individual Executive Member Decision
<b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b>	24 November 2016
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID3203

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**Purpose of Report:**

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

- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Council of Partners Board
- North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) Board
- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee
- Local Government Association General Assembly
- Berkshire Local Transport Body

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**Recommended Action:**

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

- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Council of Partners Board
- North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) Board
- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee
- Local Government Association General Assembly
- Berkshire Local Transport Body

**Reason for decision to be taken:**

To ensure that the Council is represented on the outside organisations

**Other options considered:**

Not to appoint representatives

**Key background documentation:**

None

Portfolio Member Details	
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Contact Officer Details	
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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"/>
<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://intranet/EqIA">http://intranet/EqIA</a>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Consultation Responses

#### Members:

**Leader of Council:** Councillor Roger Croft

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Councillor Emma Webster

**Ward Members:** NA

**Opposition** Councillor Alan Macro

**Spokesperson:**

**Local Stakeholders:**

**Officers Consulted:** Rob Alexander, Conservative Group Executive  
Stewart Souden, Grounds Maintenance Manager

**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 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.
- 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 **North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners Board and North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group Board**
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Traditionally, the West Berkshire Council Portfolio Holder for Countryside represents the Council on both boards. In July 2015, Councillor Keith Chopping was, therefore, appointed as representative to both boards when he became Portfolio Holder for Countryside. Councillor Anthony Chadley had been appointed as substitute to both in June 2015.
- 1.7 Following a reorganisation of the Executive in January 2016, Councillor Chopping wished to stand down and his replacement as Portfolio Holder for Countryside, Councillor Hilary Cole, was appointed to both boards.
- 1.8 Councillor Chadley continued to represent West Berkshire Council on both boards as a substitute.
- 1.9 Following the most recent reorganisation of the Executive, Councillor Cole has stood down from both boards as she is no longer the Portfolio Holder for Countryside..
- 1.10 Councillor Dominic Boeck, the new Portfolio Holder for Countryside, wishes to join the North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners Board and the North Wessex Downs LEADER Local Action Group Board. Councillor Anthony Chadley will remain as substitute for both.

1.11 The Member who has expressed an interest being nominated as Representative Member to these Outside Bodies is to be confirmed by 24 November 2016.

## **1.12 Berkshire Local Nature Partnership**

1.13 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.

1.14 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.

1.15 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.

1.16 In March 2016, following a reorganisation of the Executive, Portfolio Holder for Countryside, Councillor Hilary Cole, was appointed to the partnership.

1.17 Following the recent reorganisation of the Executive, it is proposed that Councillor Dominic Boeck, the new Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment, replaces Councillor Cole.

1.18 The Member who has expressed an interest in being nominated to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 24 November 2016 when the Individual Decision is scheduled for consideration.

## **2. Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee**

2.1 The Committee is tasked with discussing issues of policy relating to the sports and recreational centres at the Henwick Worthy sports fields. The appointees have legal responsibilities and voting rights and need to be a current Member of West Berkshire Council. The JMC recently adjusted their constitution to increase the membership of the Committee to ensure that meetings are quorate and the Council is required to appoint three Members and two substitutes to the Committee. The Chairmanship alternates between Thatcham Town and West Berkshire Councils.

2.2 In June 2015, Councillors Marigold Jaques and Nick Goodes were appointed to this role and Councillor Graham Pask was appointed as a substitute. In November 2015, after taking into account the increased membership, Councillors Marigold Jaques, Nick Goodes and Graham Pask were appointed as substantive Members on the Outside Body and Mr Jeff Brooks was appointed as a substitute member.

- 2.3 In June 2016, it was necessary to make further adjustments these appointments. Councillor Marigold Jaques and Councillor Graham Pask remained as substantive Members, but Councillor Nick Goodes was no longer able to fulfil this role and Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter had expressed an interest in being nominated to the vacant substantive Member role. Mr Jeff Brooks was not eligible to be appointed as a substitute for West Berkshire Council, as a non West Berkshire Council Member.
- 2.4 A vacancy for substitute remained following the June 2016 adjustments and it is now proposed that Councillor Roger Croft, Ward Member for Thatcham South & Crookham, be appointed as substitute on the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee.
- 2.5 The Member who has expressed an interest in being nominated as a substitute to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 24 November 2016 when the Individual Decision is scheduled for consideration.

### **3. Local Government Association General Assembly**

- 3.1 The Local Government Association is a politically-led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure that local government has a voice with national government. It aims to influence and set the political agenda on issues relevant to councils in order to deliver local solutions.
- 3.2 The General Assembly acts as the 'parliament' of local government, with all authorities in LGA membership entitled to have a minimum of one representative. It meets each summer at the LGA's Annual Conference. Membership is reviewed annually.
- 3.3 Four places are available to West Berkshire Council, although only two nominations have been made recently. In June 2015, Councillor Gordon Lundie, then Leader of the Council, and Councillor Roger Croft, then Deputy Leader of the Council, were nominated to the Assembly.
- 3.4 As Councillor Roger Croft is now Leader of Council and Councillor Graham Jones, Deputy Leader, it is now proposed that Councillor Jones replaces Councillor Lundie.
- 3.5 The Member who has expressed an interest in being nominated to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 24 November 2016 when the Individual Decision is scheduled for consideration.

### **4. Berkshire Local Transport Body**

- 4.1 Local Transport Bodies are voluntary partnerships between Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and others to allocate devolved funding for major local transport schemes. The Berkshire Local Transport Body (BLTB) is a partnership of the six Berkshire authorities plus the LEP. Slough is the accountable body.
- 4.2 West Berkshire Council has one representative on the body, traditionally the Executive Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, and one substitute, traditionally the deputy to the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport.
- 4.3 The representative has voting rights but no legal responsibilities.

- 4.4 In June 2015, Councillor Garth Simpson was appointed to this role, as Portfolio Holder and Councillor Jeanette Clifford as substitute.
- 4.5 Following Councillor Simpson's resignation from the Executive in August 2016, Councillor Jeanette Clifford, the current Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, was nominated to represent the Council on this body with Councillor Marigold Jaques as substitute.
- 4.6 It is necessary to amend the nomination of Councillor Marigold Jaques as substitute and Councillor Steve Ardagh Walter would like to take on this role.
- 4.7 The Member who has expressed an interest in being nominated as a substitute to this Outside Body is to be confirmed by 24 November 2016 when the Individual Decision is scheduled for consideration.

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

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

## **6. Conclusion**

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

## **Appendices**

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There are no Appendices to this report.