

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Representation on Outside Bodies – LGA General Assembly, LGA Rural Commission, South East Employers, the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, Berkshire Fire Authority and ACTVaR		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Graham Jones	on:	26 May 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0980		

Purpose of Report:

To consider nominations to the outside bodies as listed below.

Recommended Action:

To agree the Council's representation on

- (1) LGA General Assembly
- (2) LGA Rural Commission
- (3) South East Employers
- (4) Joint Strategic Planning Committee
- (5) Berkshire Fire Authority
- (6) ACTVaR

Reason for decision to be taken:

- Appointments to the LGA, LGA General Assembly, South East Employers and the Joint Strategic Planning Committee are made on an annual basis.
- Appointments to the Berkshire Fire Authority and ACTVaR are made on a proportionality basis, and following the change of control of the Council after the by-election held on 5th May 2005 the representation needs to be reconsidered.

List of other options considered:

- None

Key background documentation:

- Correspondence from the LGA General Assembly and the LGA Rural Commission

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Supporting Information

1. LGA General Assembly

- 1.1 The Annual Meeting of the LGA General Assembly will take place on 5th July 2005 and a second meeting will be held on 12 December 2005. The Council has received a circular from the LGA inviting West Berkshire Council to appoint their representatives to serve on the General Assembly for 2005/2006. The registration form should be returned by the 6 June 2005 to ensure that representatives receive their papers for the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.
- 1.2 West Berkshire Council is entitled to appoint three representatives and the Association encourages Authorities entitled to three or four representatives on the General Assembly to allocate one of those positions to Minority Group Leaders on their Authorities.
- 1.3 The representatives for 2004/2005 were Cllr Dr Royce Longton, Cllr Owen Jeffery and Cllr Susie Kemp with one vote each.
- 1.4 Members are appointed on an annual basis and Cllr Graham Jones, Cllr Joe Mooney and Cllr Jeff Brooks have indicated that they would like to represent West Berkshire Council on the General Assembly for 2005/2006.

2. LGA Rural Commission

- 2.1 The Rural Commission provides the forum within the LGA for member authorities with an interest in rural affairs. The annual meeting of the Rural Commission will take place on 13 September 2005 in York, followed by the Rural Conference on 14 September 2005.
- 2.2 West Berkshire Council is entitled to appoint two representatives, one of whom must be a Member. The other representative can be a Member or an Officer. Each authority has one vote on the Rural Commission. The first named elected member will be allocated the authority's vote on the Commission and his/her political affiliation will help determine the political balance of the Rural Executive and the Rural Policy Review Group.
- 2.3 The Council's representatives for 2004/2005 were Councillors Keith Lock and Graham Jones.
- 2.4 Members are appointed on an annual basis. Cllr Geoff Findlay has indicated that he would like to represent West Berkshire Council on the Rural Commission for 2005/2006.

3. South East Employers

- 3.1 West Berkshire Council is entitled to appoint two representatives to South East Employers. The Council is also entitled to appoint two deputies who can substitute for the appointed representatives at full meetings of South East Employers.
- 3.2 The Annual Meeting of South East Employers is scheduled for 14 July 2005. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the members of the Management, Executive and Regional Joint Committees will be appointed at this meeting.
- 3.3 Representatives should have a close involvement in the personnel and management function. Ideally the representation would include an Executive Member, Scrutiny Member or a Member who serves on a committee with personnel responsibilities.

- 3.4 The representatives should be in a position to represent the views of the Council.
- 3.5 The representatives should not be employees of another local authority or an employee or official of any of the local government unions.
- 3.6 The representatives for 2004/2005 were Cllr Paul Bryant and Cllr Phil Barnett.
- 3.7 Cllrs Bryant and Barnett have expressed an interest in representing West Berkshire Council on South East Employers for 2005/2006.

4. Joint Strategic Planning Committee

- 4.1 Appointments to the Joint Strategic Planning Committee are made on an annual basis. Appointments are made to the JSPC to commence in June each year. The need for the Committee is currently being reviewed but as an interim measure it would be prudent to appoint a representative.
- 4.2 Representatives are elected to the JSPC from each of the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities to liaise and co-ordinate work on strategic planning matters.
- 4.3 During the preparation of the Berkshire Structure Plan meetings were held in the early evening on a quarterly basis at venues across the County.
- 4.4 Two Members are required, one voting and one non-voting. For the year 2004/05 Cllrs Royce Longton and Owen Jeffery respectively have filled these two roles.
- 4.5 Councillor Royce Longton has expressed an interest in undertaking this role.

5. Berkshire Fire Authority

- 5.1 Five Members of the Council are required to serve as members of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5.2 Following the elections in 2003 Cllrs Jeff Brooks, Owen Jeffery, James Mole, Geoff Findlay and Paul Bryant were elected to serve as the Council's representatives.
- 5.3 The recent by-election has resulted in a change in the control of the Council, and the membership of the Fire Authority, which is based on proportionality, needs to change.
- 5.4 Meetings of the Berkshire Fire Authority take place in the evenings on a quarterly basis at various venues in the County.
- 5.5 Councillors Findlay, Bryant, Webster, Brooks, Jeffery and Mole have expressed an interest in undertaking these roles.

6. ACTVaR

- 6.1 Appointments are made to ACTVaR to commence in June each year. Councils have the option of electing their Members for the life of the Council, and this is the option that has been followed in recent years.
- 6.2 At the elections held on 5th May 2005 control of the Council changed from the Liberal Democrats to the Conservatives, and thus the representation needs to change.

- 6.3 Each Unitary Authority is entitled to appoint two Members and one substitute Member to ACTVaR. After the local elections in 2003 the two Members elected to serve on ACTVaR were Cllrs Royce Longton and Brian Bedwell. The elected substitute was Cllr Owen Jeffery. The Member appointed to serve on ACTVaR European Group was Cllr Brian Bedwell.
- 6.4 Cllrs Royce Longton, Brian Bedwell, and Keith Chopping have expressed an interest in representing the Council on ACTVaR

Appendices

Appendix A - LG alert 77/05

Appendix B - LG alert 117/05

Appendix C - The Activities and Work of a Representative Serving on South East Employers

Appendix D - Rules of the South East Employers

Appendix E – Letter from ACTVaR

Implications

Policy:	The proposal outlined in this report is not in contradiction to any of the Council's existing policies, including those outlined in the Corporate Plan.
Financial:	The payment of travelling and subsistence claims.
Personnel:	None
Legal:	None
Environmental:	None
Equalities:	None
Partnering:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Community Safety:	None

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Cllr Graham Jones
Select Committee Chairmen:	Cllr Graham Jones
Ward Members:	N/a
Opposition Spokesperson:	Cllr Jeff Brooks
Advisory Members:	N/a
Local Stakeholders:	N/a
Officers Consulted:	Andy Day, Chris Gee, Steve Clarke, Nicky Linihan-Mardon
Trade Union:	N/a

