

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Representation on Outside Bodies – LGA Rural Commission, the Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board, South East Employers (subs), and the Watermill Theatre		
Report to be considered by:	Cllr Graham Jones	on:	7 July 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1013		

Purpose of Report:

To consider nominations to the LGA Rural Commission, the Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board, Substitutes on the South East Employers, and the Watermill Theatre

Recommended Action:

To agree the Council's representation on

- 1) LGA Rural Commission;
- 2) Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board;
- 3) Substitutes on the South East Employers; and
- 4) Watermill Theatre

Reason for decision to be taken:

- The Council is entitled to two representatives on the LGA Rural Commission. Only one representative was appointed in May 2005, and there is therefore one vacancy which needs to be filled.
- A vacancy has occurred following the resignation of Cllr Anthony Stansfeld as the representative.
- When appointments were made in May 2005 to represent Council on South East Employers no substitutes were appointed, and these positions need to be filled.
- Following the resignation of the representative to the Watermill Theatre a vacancy has occurred which needs to be filled.

List of other options considered:

- None

Key background documentation:

- None

Portfolio Member:	Councillor Graham Jones
Tel. No.:	01235 762744
E-mail Address:	gjones@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details

Name:	Margaret Blaine
Job Title:	Policy and Research Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 519458
E-mail Address:	mblaine@westberks.gov.uk

Background

1) LGA Rural Commission

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Members are appointed on an annual basis. In May 2005 Cllr Geoff Findlay was appointed as one of the Council's representatives on the LGA Rural Commission, leaving one vacancy.
- 1.3 Cllr James Mole has indicated that he would like to represent West Berkshire Council on the Rural Commission for 2005/2006.

2) Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board

- 2.1 The Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board oversees a maintenance agreement with the British Waterways Board following the receipt of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 2.2 The Steering Board comprises one Member and one Officer representative from all Authorities along the Kennet and Avon Canal. Representatives are members of the Board with no legal responsibilities or voting rights.
- 2.3 Meetings are held three times a year in Devizes, usually on a Friday morning. Meetings last about two hours.
- 2.3 Following the elections in May 2003 Cllr Anthony Stansfeld was appointed as the Council's representative on the Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board. Cllr Stansfeld has now resigned from this position and a new representative needs to be appointed.
- 2.4 Cllrs Paul Bryant and Owen Jeffery have expressed an interest in undertaking this role.

3) Substitutes on the 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 When appointments were made in May 2005 the need for substitutes was inadvertently omitted from the report, and therefore no substitutes were appointed.
- 3.7 Cllr Graham Pask has expressed an interest in representing West Berkshire Council as a substitute on South East Employers for 2005/2006.

4) Watermill Theatre

- 4.1 In May 2003 Cllr Owen Jeffery was appointed as the Council's representative to the Board of the Watermill Theatre. Cllr Jeffery has now tendered his resignation from this position, and a vacancy has thus occurred.
- 4.2 The appointed representative acts as an observer on the Board which meets at six to eight weekly intervals at the theatre in Bagnor.
- 4.3 Cllr Marcus Franks has expressed an interest in undertaking this role.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Role of SEE Representatives
- Appendix B - Rules of the South East Employers

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:	None
Personnel:	None
Legal:	None
Environmental:	None
Equalities:	The LGA Rural Commission, South East Employers, the Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Board, and the Watermill Theatre promote Social Inclusion in line with the Council's Equalities Strategy.
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: Steve Clark, Chris Gee, Bill Jennison

Trade Union: N/a