

Individual Decision



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The attached report will be taken as Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Thursday 20th June 2024

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Appointments to Outside Bodies

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Committee:	20 June 2024
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Jeff Brooks
Report Author:	Ben Ryan
Forward Plan Ref:	ID4569

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report deals with the appointment of representatives to serve the Council on the following outside bodies:
- (a) Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
 - (b) Berkshire Local Transport Body
 - (c) Berkshire Standing Conference on Archives
 - (d) Berkshire West Adult Safeguarding Board
 - (e) Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership
 - (f) Domestic Abuse Board
 - (g) Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Group
 - (h) Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee
 - (i) Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
 - (j) Volunteer Centre West Berkshire
 - (k) West Berkshire Health Integration Board
- 1.2 The appointment of Council representatives provides support to, and engagement with, bodies at a local and regional level.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Leader of the Council notes the report and appoints representatives to serve on the following outside bodies:
- (a) Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors

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- (b) Berkshire Local Transport Body
- (c) Berkshire Standing Conference on Archives
- (d) Berkshire West Adult Safeguarding Board
- (e) Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership
- (f) Domestic Abuse Board
- (g) Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Group
- (h) Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee
- (i) Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
- (j) Volunteer Centre West Berkshire
- (k) West Berkshire Health Integration Board

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
Financial:	There are no financial implications directly arising from this report that are not already covered by existing budgets.			
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications arising from this report.			
Legal:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.			
Risk Management:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.			
Property:	There are no property implications arising from this report.			
Policy:	There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary

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Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Environmental Impact:		x		
Health Impact:		x		
ICT Impact:		x		
Digital Services Impact:		x		
Council Strategy Priorities:				The appointment of Council representatives provides support to, and engagement with, a wide variety of bodies that may align with strategic priorities.
Core Business:				None.
Data Impact:				None.
Consultation and Engagement:	Stephen Chard – Democratic Services Manager Nicola Thomas – Solicitor – Service Lead, Legal and Democratic Services			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Leader of the Council using their Executive powers appoints representatives to a range of outside bodies. All appointments are made in accordance with Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council Representatives on Outside Bodies).
- 4.2 Following the appointments, after the May 2023 local election, it has been recommended that further appointments or changes to appointments be made as per the recommendations in the report.

5 Introduction/Background

- 5.1 West Berkshire Council is required to appoint representatives to the Outside Bodies. In order to standardise the timetable for appointments the Council makes to Outside Bodies the majority of appointments are made for four years to coincide with the electoral cycle. The Leader of the Council will, however, have the opportunity to review any of these appointments during the term of office should it be deemed necessary.
- 5.2 Since the last set of appointments were made, it has come to light that the following new appointments or amendments are required:
 - (a) Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
 - (b) Berkshire Local Transport Body
 - (c) Berkshire Standing Conference on Archives
 - (d) Berkshire West Adult Safeguarding Board
 - (e) Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership
 - (f) Domestic Abuse Board
 - (g) Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership Steering Group
 - (h) Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee
 - (i) Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
 - (j) Volunteer Centre West Berkshire
 - (k) West Berkshire Health Integration Board
- 5.3 Before accepting the appointment Members should establish:
 - the time commitment required by the role and whether or not they have the time and capacity to take on the responsibility;
 - what the nature of the organisation is as this will affect their role and help with identifying the potential risks involved;
 - in what capacity they are being asked to serve on the Outside Body;
 - what the body has been set up to do;

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- the governance arrangements of the organisation; and
- the financial position of the organisation.

5.4 The Council representatives are also advised to:

- consider if there is likely to be any significant conflict of interest between their role in the outside organisation and their Council role before accepting the office;
- clarify the insurance arrangements and if no insurance exists this must be weighed up in the decision to accept the appointment;
- ask about any specific legal responsibilities attached to the membership of the organisation;
- read the constitution of the organisation and be aware of its powers, duties and objectives;
- attend meetings regularly and present apologies in good time when they are unable to attend;
- satisfy themselves that they receive regular reports on the activities of the organisation and its financial position;
- satisfy themselves that the organisation has adequate Health and Safety and Equalities Policies;
- obtain a copy of the annual report and accounts to ensure that funds are spent on agreed objectives where the organisation is funded by or through the Council; and
- seek advice from the appropriate Council Officers in the event of any doubt or concerns about the running of the organisation.

5.5 Relationships between the Council, Outside Bodies and the Council's representative can be complex. In any case of dispute or difficulty, Members should seek advice from the Secretary or Clerk to the Outside Body, who can then take advice from professional advisors where necessary.

5.6 If Members are concerned about the position they find themselves in as a Councillor on an Outside Body, they should contact the Monitoring Officer for further advice.

5.7 Members are asked to submit an annual report to the Service Lead, Legal and Democratic Services on the activity of the Outside Body using a prescribed form that will be circulated to Members. Members will be asked to report back by the 1st May each year. The reports will then be made available to all Members. Where there is more than one Member appointed to an outside body a joint submission can be made.

6 Options for consideration

6.1 Not to appoint representatives. This is not the preferred option as it would hinder the Council's abilities to forge working relationships with our partners.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The Leader of the Council is invited to agree the nominations to ensure the Council is represented on outside bodies as requested. Those bodies will be advised of the nominations once agreed.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All

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