
Appointments to Outside Bodies 2023/24

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	25 May 2023
Portfolio Member:	Leader of Council
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	15 May 2023
Report Author:	Sarah Clarke
Forward Plan Ref:	C4393

1 Purpose of the Report

West Berkshire Council must make annual nominations to the following outside bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association General Assembly

2 Recommendations

2.1 Council is requested to approve the appointments for the Municipal Year 2023/24 in accordance with Appendix A, of Member representatives to the following outside bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

2.2 Council is also asked to note the appointments as detailed in Appendix A of Member representatives to the Local Government Association General Assembly

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	West Berkshire Council Members are not paid to attend Outside Body meetings but any costs associated with meeting attendance will be met from within existing Members

	Allowances budget, where the Outside Body does not pay these costs			
Human Resource:	None			
Legal:	The Council is required to appoint members to certain bodies, such as the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.			
Risk Management:	None			
Property:	None			
Policy:	Where appropriate, appointments will be made in accordance with Part 13 Appendix J (Protocol for Council Representation on Outside Bodies) of the Council's Constitution			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
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:		x		
Core Business:		x		
Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	Corporate Board, Service Lead - Legal & Democratic			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Council is required to appoint representatives to a range of Outside Bodies. Further appointments will be made via an Individual Decision in June 2023 and will be aligned to the Council's electoral cycle. Such appointments are not therefore anticipated to change again until 2027.
- 4.2 Nominations to the three Outside Bodies, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel and Local Government Association General Assembly are required annually. Appointments, where appropriate, will be made in accordance with Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council Representatives on Outside Bodies).

5 Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

- 5.1 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, and previously these have taken place at the authority's Headquarters in Calcot, Reading. It should be noted that a Member appointed to the Fire Authority is expected to attend all Fire Authority meetings and to serve on at least one committee or working party.
- 5.2 Appointments to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority are made on a proportionality basis based on the electoral roll. The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have informed the Council that they require four Member appointments from West Berkshire Council. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council is required to allocate seats on the Fire Authority reflecting the political balance of the whole Council.

- 5.3 The Council's representatives in 2022/23 were Councillors Dennis Benneyworth, Jeff Brooks, Tony Linden and Biyi Oloko.

6 Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

- 6.1 The Panel comprises 18 elected members (one from each Authority) and two co-optees. Appointments of elected Members to the Panel are made in accordance with each Authority's own procedures, with a view to ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met, so far as is reasonable practicable.

- 6.2 The balanced appointment objective requires that the Panel should (when taken together):

- Represent all parts of the police area;
- Represent the political make-up of the Authorities;
- Have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

- 6.3 A Member shall be appointed to the Panel at the Annual Meeting of Council, subject to the following provisos that he/she:

Shall cease to be a Member of the Panel if he/she ceases to be a member of:

- The Authority;
- The political group in the Authority when the appointment to hold office was made.

- 6.4 The Council's representatives in 2022/23 were Councillors Claire Rowles (until December 2022) and Howard Woollaston (from December 2022).

7 Local Government Association General Assembly

- 7.1 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.

- 7.2 The General Assembly acts as the 'parliament' of local government, with 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.

- 7.3 Four places are available to West Berkshire Council. There is no requirement that the Council allocate seats to the General Assembly in a politically balanced manner. However, the Local Government Association encourages authorities entitled to three or four representatives on the General Assembly to allocate one of those positions to the Opposition Group Leader.

- 7.4 The Council's representatives in 2022/23 were Councillors Lynne Doherty, Graham Bridgman, Dominic Boeck and Lee Dillon.

8 Other options considered

Not to appoint representatives which is not recommended for the reasons detailed in the report.

9 Conclusion

That the Council should agree and note that the appointments to the organisations set out in this report be made in accordance with Appendix A.

10 Appendices

10.1 Appendix A – Proposed Appointments to Outside Bodies (To Follow)

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval | <input checked="" 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 Committee 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"/> |

Wards affected: All

Officer details:

Name: Sarah Clarke
Job Title: Service Director, Strategy & Governance
Tel No: 01635 519045
E-mail: sarah.clarke@Westberks.gov.uk
