

## Annual Council 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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| <b>Report Title</b>                    | <b>Appointments to Outside Bodies and Working Groups</b>  |  |
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### List of Appendices

Appendix A - Outside Bodies (to follow)

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1. This report seeks approval of appointments to key strategic outside bodies and seeks approval of a review into all other outside bodies for appointment at the following council meeting.

#### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 North Northamptonshire Council will make appointments to outside bodies. Whilst some key strategic outside bodies are able to be appointed to, members are invited to consider a review of outside bodies which were previously appointed to by predecessor councils prior to appointment. This report sets out options for determining future appointments and an outline of the proposed review process.

#### **3. Recommendations**

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That Council;

- 3.1. Approves appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix A
- 3.2. Notes that a review will be undertaken as detailed in paragraph 5.4 and will be considered by Council at its next meeting

## **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1 All predecessor authorities made appointments to outside bodies for a range of reasons. Appointments may have been made, for example, for strategic reasons, to influence a body, or to represent the views of the electorate at ward level. In a national context, appointments demonstrate partnership working and engagement with the local community. Nominees are usually members but may also include officers.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1 It is recommended that the appointments at Appendix A should be appointed to at the current time as they are key strategic appointments
- 5.2 In relation to other appointments, there are a vast number of outside bodies which have been collated and a decision needs to be made as to which bodies should be appointed to by the new council.

### **Option One**

- 5.3 The council could continue to appoint to the outside bodies which existed within the predecessor councils. In view of the number of appointments against the overall reduction in the number of councillors from across North Northamptonshire this may not be the preferred option.

### **Option Two**

- 5.4 The council could undertake a review of outside bodies based upon a structured criteria following which a report would be presented to the next council meeting. Following a structured process would ensure that the council can make an informed decision about which outside bodies it wishes to appoint to, ensure that proper governance arrangements are in place and understand how the council is able to properly support representatives in their roles. If members were minded to undertake a review it is proposed that the following criteria is used;

- How does the outside body work support the councils corporate objectives;
- Is there any duplication with another outside body
- What is the role of each representative;
- What are the representatives legal obligations;
- What are the expectations of the council in respect of its representatives and how will they be accountable to the council
- What are the governance arrangements for joining/resigning as a representative
- How appointments should be made
- How is relevant guidance issued to representatives on roles and responsibilities, allowances, insurance and indemnities, code of conduct and confidentiality

- 5.5 Option Two is the preferred option to enable a detailed review to be undertaken and to allow members to make an informed decision.

## **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

6.1.1 There are no resource implications arising from the recommendations

### **6.2 Legal**

6.2.1 The appointment of representatives to outside bodies can have implications for appointees, particularly those appointed as trustees or company directors. It is essential that members are made aware of their roles within outside bodies and their legal responsibilities.

### **6.3 Risk**

6.3.1 There was a large number of appointments to outside bodies spread across the predecessor authorities. There is a risk that without a review, and a structured approach to appointments and exits the new authority will be unable to support them. unless steps are taken to rationalise and prioritise the approach taken.

6.3.2 Failure to properly support members and officers appointed to outside bodies may leave them unclear as to their roles and responsibilities and diminish the potential benefits to the new authority which may be derived from effective partnership working.

### **6.4 Consultation**

6.4.1 No consultation is required in relation to this decision.

### **6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 None applicable to this report.

### **6.6 Climate Impact**

6.6.1 None applicable to this report.

### **6.7 Community Impact**

6.7.1 None applicable to this report.

## **7 Background Papers**

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