

Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 23rd May 2023

Report of: Corporate Director – Planning and Governance

Subject: APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2023-24 AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Committee confirm the appointments to outside bodies for 2023-24; and**
- 1.2 That the Committee consider appointments of Member Champions for Heritage and Health and Safety.**

2. Outside Bodies

- 2.1 The Council makes appointments annually to a variety of outside bodies. The appointments are a function of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 2.2 In the majority of cases, representatives are appointed to serve for a period of one year but can be re-appointed as part of the annual review. Some appointments are for a longer term. Charities usually have a specified term of office, commonly 3 or 4 years, and these appointments are reviewed in the year that the term is set to end.
- 2.3 In some cases, the City Council's right to appoint to an outside body arises from that body's role in representing the interests of a group of local authorities or public bodies in Worcestershire, or South Worcestershire. The appointments to those outside bodies are on terms set by the partner organisations.

3. Member Champions

- 3.1 "Member Champions" are elected members of the Council appointed to act as advocates or spokespeople for particular themes or particular communities which should be of interest to the Council in delivering its functions.
- 3.2 Following the May 2023 City Council Elections, there is a vacancy for the role of Heritage Champion. This was previously held by former Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson.
- 3.3 The Heritage Champion is responsible for promoting the role of the historic environment within its administrative area. The role of heritage in the city is formally recognised in the City Plan. The Heritage Champion is expected to make the case for the historic environment and to demonstrate the opportunities for heritage to play an increasingly more important role in the objectives of the City Council.

- 3.4 Meanwhile, Councillor Louis Stephen has stepped down from his role as Health and Safety Champion.
- 3.5 The nomination of a member of the Council to take the lead on health and safety matters was introduced in 2019. The Council's Member Champion supports the work programme of Council Officers by raising the profile of health and safety, assisting in securing adequate resources for the effective implementation of health and safety performance improvement and management initiatives and in the development of a positive health and safety culture within the organisation.
- 3.6 A new Health and Safety Policy was adopted in 2022. Members may wish to consider whether this Champion role is still required, now that the new Policy and a new Corporate Health and Safety Officer are in place.

4. Decisions

- 4.1 Nominations for Outside Body appointments are currently being considered by Group Leaders. The Committee are recommended to appoint to all those bodies highlighted in bold on the attached schedule (**Appendix 1**). Details of the nominations will be circulated separately when these have been finalised.
- 4.2 In addition to the bodies on the attached schedule, Group Leaders agree the City Council's representation on key partnership forums, stakeholder panels and project steering groups which are not formal outside bodies.
- 4.3 In addition, the Committee are recommended to consider appointments of Member Champions for Heritage and Health and Safety. These appointments will be for a period of one year to May 2024.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 None.

6. Implications

- 6.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications
None.

6.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The role and responsibilities of the representative on an outside body depends on the composition and terms of reference of the organisation. Some are appointed to the organisation as a Director or a Trustee and these positions carry with them legal responsibilities to the organisation concerned.

6.3 Risk Implications

When Councillors are representing the Council on another body, they must follow the Council's Code of Conduct, unless it conflicts with a legal duty owed to the other body.

6.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

Participation by elected members and representatives of the Council in the work of outside bodies assists in supporting the aims of the Council's City Plan by

encouraging people to participate and volunteer to support each other and their communities.

6.5 Equality Implications

None.

6.6 Human Resources Implications

None.

6.7 Health and Safety Implications

None.

6.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

See 5.4 above.

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Background Papers: None