



OPEN REPORT ANNUAL COUNCIL

Annual Council – 23 May 2024

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Report of Director of Corporate & Customer Services and Monitoring Officer

Report Author and Contact Details

Helen Mitchell, Director of Corporate & Customer Services
01629 761281 or helen.mitchell@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Wards Affected

District Wide

Report Summary

This report reviews the Council's affiliations with outside bodies and invites nominations to act as the Council's representatives for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Recommendations

1. That Council reviews the appointments to outside bodies identified in Appendix 1, and considers any changes it may wish to make to the current arrangements.
2. That the position of organisations where no indemnity insurance currently exists be noted accordingly.
3. That the Members identified in the schedule be appointed to the relevant outside body to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
4. That the list of Conferences for 2024/25 be approved.
5. That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services in consultation with the Chief Executive and Directors, where relevant, to determine requests for attendance at other conferences based on the relevance of the subject matter and to the availability of finance.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Nominations of Outside Bodies for 2024/25

Background Papers

None

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from Press or Public

No

Appointments to Outside Bodies for the 2024/25 Municipal Year

1. Background

- 1.1 Outside bodies are external organisations which have requested that the Council appoints a representative to them. Outside bodies have separate governance structures to the Council. Appointments to outside bodies can be an important mechanism for community leadership, partnership and joint working and knowledge and information sharing.
- 1.2 This report serves as the annual review of the schedule of outside body appointments and the Council's affiliation with those outside bodies.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Schedule attached at Appendix 1 details the full list of outside bodies that require the Council's consideration at this time. Council is required to consider nominations received from its political groups.
- 2.2 Members will recall noting the dissolution of the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Forum and the Derbyshire Economic Partnership at its meeting on 25 January 2024, both being replaced by the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.
- 2.3 The following table sets out the list of Approved Conferences and recommended representation. The purpose of the list is to confer approved duty status to cover Member attendance. Those highlighted in red are events that the Council has previously agreed that attendance will be based on the relevance of the agenda and availability of finance. Authority for approval is delegated to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services (as budget holder) based on the recommendation of the Member Development Working Group.

Title and Organising body	Representation	Substitute Representation
(Annual) Local Government Association (LGA) Conference	Leader and Deputy Leader plus Chief Executive	Deputy Group Leaders or a Committee Chair
(Annual) Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Chairman of the appropriate Committee and Service Director	Vice-Chairman of the appropriate Committee
(Annual) National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA)	Chairman of the appropriate Committee and Service Director	Vice-Chairman of the appropriate Committee
Chartered Institute of Housing Conference	Chairman of the appropriate Committee and one Officer	Vice-Chairman of the appropriate Committee

Title and Organising body	Representation	Substitute Representation
(Inside Communications Limited)	from the appropriate Department	
LGA Tourism Conference	Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the appropriate committee and one Officer	Vice-Chairman of the appropriate Committee
District Council's Network Conference	Leader & Chief Executive	Deputy Leader
Rural Services Network	Chairman of the appropriate Committee	Vice Chairman

2.4 The District Council remains a non-constituent member of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority through statute. There is, therefore, an ongoing legal requirement to appoint a representative on behalf of the District Council, however there has been no requirement for that representative to attend any meeting of the SYMCA for a number of years. It is not expected that the Council's representative will be invited to this body during the forthcoming municipal year.

2.5 The District Council appoints to a number of Joint Committees, such as the Joint ICT Committee and, as agreed at Council on 25 January 2024, the D2 Strategic Leadership Board. These appointments are covered in another report on this agenda as they are not outside bodies.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 The appointment of representatives to outside bodies is at the discretion of the Council. The nature and number of appointments to outside bodies will have an impact on already busy councillor workloads. Whilst retaining links with outside bodies is an important aspect of community leadership, it is also important that the activities of the Council and councillors are focused on priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

4. Consultation

4.1 It is incumbent on the Council's political groups to nominate councillors to serve as representatives on outside bodies. There is no requirement for consultation beyond internal political group arrangements.

5. Timetable for Implementation

5.1 Appointments agreed at the Annual Meeting will have immediate effect. Following the meeting, Democratic Services will write to individual Members to confirm their appointments and provide contact details and available background information.

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 The appointment of Councillors to serve on outside bodies (i.e. external organisations and partnership) is intended to be a mutually beneficial act for both the authority and the bodies listed. The policy implications associated with the proposed appointments are considered to be positive.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The Council has a reserve of £25,000 to cover Member/Officer indemnity. The indemnity extends to co-opted members on the Council's Committees. The Council has budgets for conference expenses that total £6,200. Members allowances for attendance at meetings of the affiliated Outside Bodies and Approved Conferences is provided for in the revenue budget for 2024/25. The financial risk is therefore assessed as low.

8. Legal Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are risks attached to representing the Council on outside bodies. Where these are not covered by insurance there is a risk of personal liability being incurred. Members will have to decide whether they are prepared to accept this possible consequence when deciding to represent the Council. In most cases, the possible level of personal liability will be small.
- 8.2 Councillors appointed to outside bodies will need to be clear as to whether their duty is to the Council or to the outside body and will need to identify any potential conflicts of interest. It is important that partners, as much as Councillors, understand the role that councillors undertake in serving on outside bodies. The role of the Councillor can be as a representative, trustee or director as the table below demonstrates:

Role	Brief Description
Representative	Represents the Council's interests and provides advice, guidance and contributes at meetings of the organisation
Trustee	To act in accordance with the trust deed and to protect the trust's assets. They must comply with the Trustee Act 2000.
Director	Has a duty of care towards the company, to act in the best interests of the company as a whole. Directors therefore have a "quasi-trustee" role taking proper care of the assets of the company

- 8.3 Those bodies that do not afford their representatives the benefit of personal liability insurance have been highlighted in bold. The associated risk however is considered to be low.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

10. Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

11. Risk Management

11.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	15/05/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer	Karen Henriksen	11/05/2024
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Helen Mitchell	15/05/2024