

OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

21 March 2024

Appointments to Outside Organisation

Report of: Director of Governance and Compliance (Monitoring Officer)

Report Reference No: CP/78/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All Wards

Purpose of Report

- 1 The report invites the Corporate Policy Committee to make appointments to the outside organisations from which Councillor Craig Browne is standing down.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 15 June 2023, approved a revised procedure for dealing with vacancies on outside organisations. This required a report to be submitted to the Corporate Policy Committee to approve the appointment of a replacement councillor to the outside organisation, upon a vacancy arising.
- 3 The report seeks approval to make an appointment to Alderley Park Holdings Ltd, the Transport for the North Partnership Board, the Transport for the North Rail Committee, and the County Councils Network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee approve that:

- 1 Councillor Michael Gorman be appointed as the Council's representative on Alderley Park Holdings Ltd.

- 2 Councillor Mark Goldsmith be appointed as the Council's representative on Transport for the North Partnership Board.
- 3 Councillor Mark Goldsmith be nominated for the sub-regional representative on Transport for the North Rail Committee.
- 4 Councillor Mick Warren be appointed as a Council's representative on the County Councils Network.

Background

- 4 Following the decision of Councillor Craig Browne to take stand down as Deputy Leader of the Council, and Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee and associated outside organisation appointments, there is a requirement for the Corporate Policy Committee to approve the replacement appointments to the outside organisations.
- 5 The Committee is invited to make alternative appointments to Alderley Park Holdings Ltd, Transport for the North Partnership Board, Transport for the North Rail Committee, and the County Councils Network.
- 6 The criteria for appointments to the Transport for the North Board for non-mayoral constituent authorities is that the Lead Member must be either the Leader, Chair, or elected Member responsible for Transport.
- 7 The membership to the Rail North Committee accords with regional groupings. Rail North Committee Members and substitutes must also be a Lead Member or substitute Member for the Transport for the North Board. Cheshire East Council is in the Potteries grouping with Cheshire West and Chester Council, Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Warrington Borough Council. Any nomination for the position on the Rail Committee will need the agreement of the other local authorities.

Consultation and Engagement

- 8 There is no requirement for public consultation on this report. The Political Groups have been contacted for nominations.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 9 It is important for the Council to appoint members to outside organisations to ensure that it continues to represent the interests of both the Authority and the wider community.

Other Options Considered

- 10 An alternative option would be not to make an appointment.
- 11 Not appointing to outside organisations would not be of benefit to the Council, as making appointments ensures that the interests of the Council and wider community are represented.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 12 Whilst membership of outside organisations carries with it the potential for personal liability for elected Members undertaking such roles as ancillary to their status as a Councillor, particularly in respect of trusteeships, Cheshire East Borough Council's Cabinet resolved on 9 February 2016 to put in place for elected Members the maximum indemnity which is allowed by law (Minute 105 refers).
- 13 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers local authorities to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions, and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers them to do anything they consider likely to achieve the object of promotion of the economic, social, or environmental well-being of their area. In addition, there is now the general power of competence under the Localism Act 2011. These are the main provisions which the Council would rely on to appoint members to outside organisations or to select those bodies to which they are appointed.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 14 The Members Allowance Scheme states that attendance at meetings of outside organisations on which Cheshire East Council is invited to be represented is an approved duty for the claiming of travel expenses and allowances.

Policy

- 15 There are no direct policy implications.

An open and enabling organisation Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making	A council which empowers and cares about people Work together with residents and partners to support people and communities to be strong and resilient.
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

16 There are no direct implications.

Human Resources

17 There are no direct human resources implications.

Risk Management

18 The failure to appoint members to outside organisations could have a direct or indirect impact on the organisations, which can be mitigated by the operations of a procedure for making timely appointments to ensure Council representation.

Rural Communities

19 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

20 There are no direct implications in respect of children and young people and cared for children.

Public Health

21 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

22 There are no direct implications relating to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	Corporate Policy Committee 15 June 2023 - Review of Outside Organisations Corporate Policy Committee 11 July 2023 - Appointments to Outside Organisations

