

CHESHIRE EAST

CABINET

Date of meeting: 3 March 2009
Report of: Governance Lead Officer
(Appointments to Outside Organisations)
Title: **Appointments to Category 1 Schedule
of Outside Organisations**

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline arrangements for making appointments to the Category 1 list of outside organisations; appointments to take effect from 1st April 2009.
- 1.2 The organisations listed on Category 1 are those which have been determined as top level, regional or national which are of strategic importance and it is appropriate for the Cabinet to make the appointments.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 That appointments be made to the Category 1 schedule of outside organisations, as detailed on the appendix attached to the report, together with any amendments made at the meeting;
- 2.2 That the appointments commence 1st April 2009; and
- 2.3 That all appointments be made for a 2-year term of office, terminating in May 2011.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 14th July 2008, the Governance and Constitution Committee set up a Task Group *"To devise a work programme and develop recommendations to deal with appointments and implement best practice."*
- 3.2 The Task Group, comprising Councillors R Cartlidge, S Jones, A Ranfield, P Whiteley and R Walker has now completed its work and has formulated a procedure for making appointments to outside organisations. Its final report will be submitted to the Governance and Constitution Committee meeting to be held on 9th March 2009.

4.0 Method of Appointment

4.1 The Task Group has given consideration to criteria to be adopted for making appointments and these were agreed by the Governance and Constitution Committee at its meeting held on 6th October 2008.

4.2 As part of its work, the Task Group surveyed the majority of organisations to establish their own requirements as far as representation was concerned, and also to emphasise that from 1st April 2009 there are only 81 Councillors for the whole of the Cheshire East area, and this could result in fewer representatives being appointed to each organisation, whereas at present, they may have up to 4 representatives drawn from each of the constituent authorities.

4.3 The list of organisations from each of the constituent authorities was aggregated and then divided into the following categories –

Category 1 These are top-level strategic organisations at national, regional and local level; for example, Fire Authority, Police Authority.

The Cabinet has already decided that it will reserve to itself appointments to these organisations.

Category 2 These are appointments which were key to the constituent authorities (Cheshire County Council, Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich, and Macclesfield Borough Councils) and were considered to be essential after 31st March 2009.

These appointments are to be made by the Governance and Constitution Committee.

Category 3 These are organisations which the constituent authorities considered to be worthwhile but were not crucial.

These appointments are to be made by the Governance and Constitution Committee.

Category 4 Those not falling within categories 1-3.

Any appointments necessary will be made by the Governance and Constitution Committee.

4.4 Group Whips were invited to submit nominations, and these were considered by the Task Group at its meetings on 11th and 19th February 2009.

5.0 Category 1 Organisations

5.1 The nominations detailed on the attached list (Appendix) are the result of consultation with all Group Whips. For some organisations, it is appropriate for the rules of political proportionality to be applied, and nominations from opposition groups have been included where appropriate.

5.2 The Cabinet is invited to appoint the following Councillors nominated by the opposition political groups.

Ref No. 27 Local Government Association (LGA)
Councillor A Arnold (LD)

Ref No. 30 Muir Group Housing
Councillor M A Martin (Lab)

Ref No. 32 North West Local Authorities Employment
Organisation
Councillor R Fletcher (LD)

Ref No. 38 Supporting People Strategic Partnership
Councillor D Flude (Lab)

5.3 Ref No 80 Peaks and Plains of Cheshire Tourism

There is one vacancy only; in addition to the Conservative Group's nomination of Councillor G Walton, the Liberal Democrats have nominated Councillor A Arnold.

The Cabinet is invited to make a decision on these nominations.

6.0 Term of Office

6.1 It is suggested that, as a general rule, the term of office should be commensurate with the requirements of the organisations to which Members are appointed. Notwithstanding this, it is suggested that for this first tranche of appointments the term of office be made for a period of 2 years, ending in May 2011, when Members' initial period of office will terminate.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 The appointment of representatives to outside organisations can have implications for appointees, particularly those appointed as Trustees or Company Directors. It is essential that Members are made aware of their roles, responsibilities and liabilities. The Task Group will be recommending that, in view of the special nature of such appointments, Members should be briefed in advance and that if practicable, a training day/session be held as soon after 1st April 2009 as possible.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 None identified.

9.0 Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to appoint Members to outside organisations could have a direct or indirect impact on the organisations.	The introduction of a procedure for making timely appointments to outside organisations.
Cheshire East Council is unable to influence key stakeholders.	Introduction of a satisfactory scheme of appointment to ensure Council representation.

10.0 Reason for the Decision

- 10.1 It is important for Cheshire East Council to participate actively as a partner in the network of local organisations across the whole of the Cheshire East area.
- 10.2 The nominations are recommended following consultation and are considered to be appropriate for appointment with effect from 1st April 2009.

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