

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Governance and Constitution Committee

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**Date of meeting:** 21 May 2009  
**Report of:** Borough Solicitor  
**Title:** Outside Organisations

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### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider the re-appointment of the Task Group (Appointments to Outside Organisations).

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Task Group (Appointments to Outside Organisations):
- (1) be re-constituted to serve for the remainder of the Municipal Year;
  - (2) meet on an *ad hoc* basis;
  - (3) comprise five Members on a cross-party basis (3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour) to be nominated at the meeting;
  - (4) be invited to address the issues emerging in respect of appointments to outside organisations;
  - (5) give initial consideration to the development of a method for individual Members to report back on the effectiveness, or otherwise, of representation; and
  - (6) report back to the Governance and Constitution Committee as and when it considers appropriate within the Municipal Year.

### **3.0 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 None identified.

### **4.0 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 Whilst the appointment of representatives to outside organisations can have implications for appointees, particularly those appointed as Trustees or Company Directors, there are no legal implications associated with this particular decision.

### **5.0 Risk Assessment**

- 5.1 None identified.

## **6.0 Background**

- 6.1 Members will be aware that at the Governance and Constitution Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008, the Committee set up a Task Group *“To devise a work programme and develop recommendations to deal with appointments to outside organisations and implement best practice.”*
- 6.2 Following completion of its work, the Task Group’s recommendations were submitted to the Committee on 9 March 2009. The nominations to outside organisations were accepted, and the Committee also adopted the recommended procedure for making such appointments.
- 6.3 All outside organisations have now been notified of the appointments made. As a consequence of those notifications, a number of matters have emerged which it would be appropriate for the Task Group to consider. For example, one or two outside organisations have been disbanded and there are constitutional issues with others which may require an adjustment to the number of Members appointed.

## **7.0 Composition of Task Group**

- 7.1 The Task Group set up by the Committee in July 2008 was established on a cross-party basis, comprising 3 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour. It is suggested that it be re-constituted on this basis.

## **8.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 8.1 The development of a method for reporting back on representation will enable the Council to monitor the work of outside organisations and to determine their continued appropriateness to the Council’s aims.
- 8.2 The issues which have arisen are more appropriate for the Task Group to undertake than the full Committee.
- 8.3 The retention of the Task Group as a standing body, to meet as and when required, will enable it to address other issues associated with outside organisations which may emerge during the course of the year.

### ***For further information:***

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### ***Background documents:***

*Procedure for Making Appointments to Outside Organisations*

*Previous reports to Governance and Constitution Committee*