

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	14 July 2009
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Outside Organisations – North-West Employers Organisation

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report invites the Cabinet to reduce its representation on North-West Employers Organisation (NEWO) from three Members to one.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE –
- (a) That Councillor Frank Keegan be confirmed as the Council's representative on North-West Employers Organisation; and
 - (b) That this appointment supersede that made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 3rd March 2009.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The appointment of Members to Outside Organisations must be in accordance with the requirements of the organisation, as far as reasonably practicable. The reduction from three to one Member accords with the constitutional requirements of North-West Employers Organisation.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 North-West Employers Organisation represents the interests of local authorities in the North-West. As a member Authority, Cheshire East Council as a whole is represented by the organisation; consequently, this impacts on all wards.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Councillors.

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 None identified.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

7.1 None identified.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

8.1 The Council has paid a subscription fee of £28,554 net for the year 2009/2010. No other financial implications have been identified.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 None identified.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 None identified

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 At its meeting held on 3rd March 2009, the Cabinet made appointments to all the Category 1 outside organisations.

11.2 Each outside organisation was notified of Members' names and contact details. A number of issues have arisen, consequent upon notification, the majority of which can be addressed by the Task Group set up by the Governance and Constitution Committee. However, there is a requirement to reconsider representation on NWEO.

11.3 The Task Group set up to review appointments had recommended three Members to be appointed to this organisation, and this was accepted by the Governance and Constitution Committee, which in turn, made its recommendation to Cabinet.

11.4 On 3rd March 2009, the Cabinet appointed Councillors D Brown, F Keegan and R Fletcher. NWEO has contacted the Council requesting a reduction to one. Although a number of outside organisations have reviewed their constitutions to take account of the new administrative arrangements in Cheshire, NWEO has no such plans. As a consequence, the organisation is only permitted to accept one representative from each member Authority.

11.5 Councillor Keegan, as the Portfolio Holder, has discussed this with Councillors Brown and Fletcher, both of whom have agreed that it would be appropriate for Councillor Keegan to be the Council's representative. The Cabinet is, therefore, asked to endorse this.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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