

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: CABINET

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>6 October 2009</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Borough Solicitor</b>
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	<b>Appointments to Outside Organisations –</b> <b>(1) South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board/Congleton Learning Partnership</b> <b>(2) County Councils Network</b>
<b>Portfolio Holders:</b>	<b>(1) Prosperity (Councillor J Macrae)</b> <b>(2) Leader (Councillor W Fitzgerald)</b>

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report outlines issues which have arisen in respect of appointments to South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board. In addition, the Cabinet is invited to add the County Councils Network (CCN) to the list of organisations as a Category 1 and to appoint four Councillors to it.

### 2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE –

- (a) That Councillors D Brown, J Hammond, J Macrae and B Moran, the current appointees to South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board be appointed to **Congleton Learning Partnership**, with immediate effect;
- (b) That the term of office be coterminous with the appointment to the South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board;
- (c) That Cheshire East Council joins **County Councils Network** as a member authority;
- (d) That County Councils Network be added to the list of Category 1 outside organisations which fall within the remit of Cabinet to make appointments; and
- (e) That Councillors W Fitzgerald, P Findlow, B G Silvester and Councillor A Moran be appointed as the Council's representatives on County Councils Network.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The changes proposed are in accordance with the request of South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board.
- 3.2 In view of the strategic importance of County Councils Network (CCN) and the fact that Cheshire East Council provides services formerly delivered by Cheshire County Council it would be prudent to join CCN and to appoint Member representatives.
- 3.3 The recommendations are in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Governance and Constitution Committee.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 County Councils Network – this is a national organisation and as a member Authority, Cheshire East Council as a whole is represented by the organisation; consequently, this impacts on all wards.  
Congleton Learning Partnership – Congleton Town East  
Congleton Town West  
Congleton Rural

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 County Councils Network - All Councillors
- 5.2 Congleton Learning Partnership – Councillors within the three Congleton Wards

### **6.0 Policy Implications**

- 6.1 None identified.

### **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

- 7.1 None identified.

### **8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

- 8.1 None identified other than where referred to against specific organisations.

### **9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

- 9.1 Whilst membership of outside bodies carries with it the potential for personal liability for elected Members undertaking such roles as ancillary to their status as an elected Member, Cheshire East Borough Council has already resolved to put in place for elected members the maximum indemnity which is allowed by law.

## **10.0 Risk Management**

10.1 None identified.

## **11.0 Background and Options**

11.1 At its meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009, the Cabinet made appointments to all outside organisations on the Category 1 Schedule (ie, high level strategic or statutory organisations).

11.2 All outside organisations were notified of the appointments made. A number of issues have arisen, some of which have already been reported to Cabinet.

### **South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board (SECE)**

11.3 At its meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009, the Cabinet appointed Councillors Brown, Hammond, Macrae and Barry Moran to South and East Cheshire Enterprise Board (SECE).

11.4 Subsequent to notification of the appointments, SECE has informed the Council that when it was in partnership with the former Congleton Borough Council, all Members of SECE were also appointed to Congleton Learning Partnership Ltd. which is a training company owned by SECE.

11.5 This partnership arrangement needs to continue with Cheshire East Council and all four Members of the Enterprise Board should also be appointed to Congleton Learning Partnership Ltd.

11.6 The Cabinet is, therefore, asked to appoint Councillors D Brown, Hammond, J Macrae and B Moran to Congleton Learning Partnership Ltd.

### **County Councils Network (CCN)**

11.7 When the Task Group (Outside Organisations) conducted its review of appointments to outside organisations, County Councils Network was deleted from the schedule on the basis that as Cheshire County Council would cease to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, there was no longer a continued need to appoint to this organisation.

11.8 However, as Cheshire East Council delivers the range of services formerly provided by Cheshire County Council, it is desirable for this Council to join CCN as a member authority and to appoint elected Members to represent the Council.

11.9 The County Councils Network is a national network of 37 councils representing 48% of the population of England. The Network exists to share good practice and policy research across member authorities and to

“speak with one voice” to central government and other key stakeholders, promoting the interests of county government in all its shapes and forms.

- 11.10 County Councils Network operates as a Special Interest Group within the Local Government Association (LGA). As a small organisation, it targets its resources on issues of importance to member authorities, particularly those which represent the greatest opportunities or threats to the effective and efficient functioning of county government.
- 11.11 It is a member-led organisation, working on an inclusive and all-party basis, with Councillors representing all the member authorities. Its work is directed by the County Councils Network Council, supported by a small team based in Local Government House, Westminster.
- 11.12 In view of its strategic importance, it is considered that this should be a Category 1 organisation (ie top level strategic organisations at national, regional and local level; for example, Fire Authority, Primary Care Trust, Policy Authority).
- 11.13 There is a requirement for 4 Members to be appointed to CCN; it is proposed that three of the places be taken by the Conservatives (Councillors W Fitzgerald, P Findlow and B G Silvester have been nominated), with the fourth place taken by an Opposition Member (Councillor A Moran has been nominated).
- 11.14 Financial Implications: There is a subscription fee of £12,200 net for the year 2009/2010. No other financial implications have been identified.

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

12.1 None identified.

## **13.0 Access to Information**

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

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