

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Governance and Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting:	19 November 2009
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title:	Appointments to Outside Organisations

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report outlines specific issues requiring a decision by the Governance and Constitution Committee, and summarises progress by the Task Group (Outside Organisations).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That

- (1) Councillor C Beard be appointed to the King's School, Macclesfield, to replace Councillor W Livesley who has resigned from the position;
- (2) Councillor H Davenport be appointed to the Task Group (Outside Organisations) to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor A Ranfield; and
- (3) the Task Group's progress be noted.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is important for the Council to participate as a partner in the network of outside organisations within Cheshire East, and more widely if appropriate.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Broken Cross (for King's School appointment only).

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Councillors A Arnold, J Goddard and J Narraway.

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 None identified.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 As noted at 11.6 of this report, the appointment of representatives to outside organisations can have implications for representatives, and in order to provide assistance to Members in this respect, guidance is currently in the course of preparation and is expected to be available in January 2010.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 No risks identified.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 At its meeting held on 21st May 2009, the Governance and Constitution Committee re-appointed the Task Group (Outside Organisations) on the following basis to serve for the remainder of the Municipal Year -

- to meet on an *ad hoc* basis;
- to comprise five Members on a cross-party basis (3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour) to be nominated at the meeting;
- to address the issues emerging in respect of appointments to outside organisations;
- to give initial consideration to the development of a method for individual Members to report back on the effectiveness, or otherwise, of representation; and
- to report back to the Governance and Constitution Committee as and when it considers appropriate within the Municipal Year.

11.2 Subsequent to notification of appointments to outside organisations, a number of issues had arisen and were addressed by the Task Group, which made recommendations to the Committee on 30th September 2009.

11.3 Task Group Membership

The Task Group, established on a cross-party basis, comprises 3 Conservatives (Councillors A Ranfield, A Kolker and P Whiteley); 1 Liberal Democrat (Councillor Shirley Jones); and 1 Labour (Councillor R Cartlidge).

Councillor Ranfield has resigned from the Committee and there is a need to appoint a replacement. The Committee is, therefore, asked to appoint Councillor H Davenport to the Task Group.

11.4 King's School, Macclesfield

Councillor Livesley who was appointed by the Committee to the King's School, Macclesfield, has resigned from the Governing Body and there is a requirement to fill the vacancy.

At its meeting held on 9th March 2009, the Committee agreed a protocol for dealing with casual vacancies which occur between appointments, as follows-

Protocol for Dealing with Casual Vacancies

- (i) When an appointment becomes vacant (between annual appointments), the Democratic Services Manager, as the appropriate Officer, would be notified.*
- (ii) The Group Whip of the appropriate political group would be invited to nominate from within the same group.*
- (ii) A target date for notification of the name of a representative would be agreed.*
- (iii) The nomination would be submitted to the next available Governance and Constitution Committee for approval.*
- (iv) In cases where political groups are unable to appoint to a particular organisation (or choose not to appoint, for whatever reason), the Democratic Services Manager would be notified by an agreed date. Each of the remaining political groups would then be invited to submit a nomination which would be considered by the Governance and Constitution Committee at its next available meeting.*

In line with the protocol, the Committee is asked to confirm Councillor Chris Beard's appointment to King's School, Macclesfield as the replacement for Councillor Livesley.

11.5 Monitoring Representation

In the forthcoming months, the Task Group will be invited to consider a means for monitoring the appropriateness and effectiveness of representation, with the aim of recommending a method of evaluation to ensure that representation continues to be appropriate.

With the demise of the former County and Borough Councils, the overall number of elected Members for Cheshire East's geographical area has reduced from around 215 to 81. Cheshire East Council, therefore, has had to make some difficult decisions about which organisations it can support by way of formal representation and any annual review will need to take this into account. Following decisions made by Cabinet and the Governance and Constitution Committee in March, a further three organisations have been added to the schedule, thereby increasing Members' commitments.

11.6 Guidance for Members

Some positions carry legal responsibilities, particularly those of trustee or director. It is important that Members are clear about their role within the outside organisation, what is expected of them and their ability to deal with conflicts of interest as and when they arise.

The guidance referred to in the report to the Committee on 30th September 2009, is not yet available in its final form but is anticipated to be submitted to the January 2010 meeting for adoption.

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.

Name: Carol Jones
Designation: Democratic Services Officer
Tel No: 01270 529952 (internal ext 4952)
E-mail: carol.jones@cheshireeast.gov.uk