

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Prosperity

Date of Meeting:	24 November 2009
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title:	Appointment to Outside Organisation – LGA Urban Commission

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report invites the Cabinet Member for Prosperity to appoint Councillor Peter Mason to replace Councillor Jamie Macrae on the LGA Urban Commission.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That

(1) Councillor Peter Mason be appointed to the LGA Urban Commission, with immediate effect, to replace Councillor Jamie Macrae; and

(2) the appointment terminate on 5 May 2011 (the date of the local elections).

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The decision ensures that representation is the maximum permitted.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

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.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 The appointment of representatives to outside organisations can have implications for those members who are appointed, such as in relation to legal liabilities and ethical issues. Whilst the Council has resolved to offer indemnity to its members to the maximum extent allowed by law, and further training and guidance on these issues is being prepared, legal advice should be sought by any member appointed to any outside organisation, should any doubt arise.

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 outside organisations on the Category 1 Schedule (ie. high level strategic or statutory organisations).

11.2 Councillors B G Silvester and J Macrae were appointed to the LGA Urban Commission at that time.

11.3 The Urban Commission provides the forum within the Local Government Association (LGA) for member authorities whose areas are wholly or partly urban. It acts in a way which complements the principles of the LGA as a whole.

The purpose of the Commission is to –

- Provide the forum in which urban authorities can discuss matters of common concern and exchange good practice and experience.
- Assist the LGA to take into account the needs, priorities and aspirations of urban authorities in formulating and promoting its policies.
- Help the LGA to promote the role and interests of urban authorities and the ability of those authorities to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

11.4 Councillor Macrae has resigned from this appointment and a replacement is required. Councillor Mason has expressed a willingness to be appointed.

11.5 Procedure for Dealing with Casual Vacancies

When casual vacancies on outside organisations occur, the current procedure is for reports to be submitted to the full Cabinet.

Notwithstanding this, there are existing powers under the Council's Constitution which provide for Cabinet Members to agree appointments to outside organisations which fall within their portfolio.

It is suggested that rather than waiting for these to be agreed by the collective Cabinet, the individual Cabinet Members use their powers for casual vacancies, thereby reducing the burden upon Cabinet.

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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