

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	14th June 2010
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Appointments to Outside Organisations

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report gives details of proposed changes to the Category 1 list of outside organisations and includes a specific request in respect of Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust. In addition, as a consequence of a change in representation on the Police Authority, there is a proposed amendment to the nominees to the Cheshire Police Appointments Joint Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE –

- (a) That the changes to outside organisations, as shown in bold and underlined on the appendix to the report be approved;
- (b) That representation on Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust be reduced from 5 to 3;
- (c) That (subject to agreement to (b) above) Councillors R West, D Thompson and J Narraway be appointed as the Council's three representatives on Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust; and
- (d) That Councillors W Fitzgerald, A Arnold and H Murray be nominated to the Cheshire Police Appointments Joint Committee.

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. This maintains an important link between it and the wider community.

4.0 Wards Affected

Not appropriate.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Not appropriate.

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 None identified.

7.0 Financial Implications 2010/11 and beyond

7.1 Not appropriate. The financial implications were addressed when the initial appointments were made. This report deals with casual vacancies.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

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 a Councillor, Cheshire East Borough Council has already resolved to put in place for elected members the maximum indemnity which is allowed by law.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 None identified.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 At its meeting held on 3rd March 2009, Cabinet appointed Members to the list of outside organisations designated as Category 1, i.e top-level strategic organisations at national, regional and local level; for example, the Primary Care Trust, Police Authority, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

These appointments, which the Cabinet has reserved to itself, were made for a two year period ending at the conclusion of the Municipal Year in May 2011.

10.2 Proposed Changes

Following Annual Council on 12th/13th May 2010, a number of changes have been proposed to the list of Category 1 outside organisations as shown in bold and underlined on the appendix attached to this report.

Cabinet is asked to approve the changes.

10.3 Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust

In March 2009, Cabinet appointed five Members to Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust ("the Trust") which is one of several housing associations to which the Cabinet makes appointments.

In the early part of 2010, the Trust reviewed its governance arrangements. As part of that review, one of its proposals was to change the composition

of its Board structure, based on best practice and following advice from its trade body, the National Housing Federation.

The Housing Federation suggests a maximum size for a Housing Association Board of 12, with an ideal number being 9. At present, the Trust has a Board of 15, comprising 5 Councillors, 5 Independents and 5 Tenant members.

The original purpose of having five local authority nominees was to protect the Council's interests following the transfer of the housing stock from the former Macclesfield Borough Council to the Trust. That was four years ago and the Trust considers that it has now demonstrated its ability to conduct its own business; it has met the majority of its commitments set out at the time of transfer; and the Audit Commission has given it a 2-star "good" rating with excellent prospects for improvement. The Trust considers that it is now timely to reduce the number of Councillors on its Board.

In March 2010 the Trust wrote to the Council requesting that representation be reduced from 5 to 3 Members.

The proposals are in line with other Housing Trusts to which the Cabinet appoints (Wulvern Housing – reduced from 5 to 3 Members by the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council; Dane Housing – reduced from 4 to 2 by Cabinet at Dane Housing's request).

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 5 to 3 Members accords with the Trust's revised governance arrangements and Cabinet is asked to approve this change.

10.4 Cheshire Police Appointments Joint Committee

The Police Authority has an Appointments Joint Committee which approves nominations from the Cheshire Authorities to the Police Authority. This Council's current Members are Councillors W Fitzgerald, A Arnold and B G Silvester. In view of the proposed changes to the nominations to the Police Authority, it is proposed that the nominations to the Appointments Joint Committee should be Councillors Fitzgerald, Arnold and Murray.

11.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

11.1 None identified.

12.0 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 686472
E-mail: carol.jones@cheshireeast.gov.uk