

Corporate Policy Committee

28 November 2024

Appointments to Outside Organisations

Report of: Janet Witkowski, Acting Governance, Compliance and Monitoring Officer

Report Reference No: CP/42/24-25

Ward(s) Affected: No specific wards.

For Decision or Scrutiny: Decision

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report seeks approval from the Corporate Policy Committee to make appointments to a number of Outside Organisations as set out within the report.

Executive Summary

- 2 In line with the Constitution and revised procedure for dealing with vacancies on outside organisations, agreed by the Corporate Policy Committee in June 2023, this report seeks agreement from the Corporate Policy Committee to the appointment of replacement councillors to outside organisations, upon vacancies arising.
- 3 The report seeks approval to make appointments to the following Outside Organisations:
 - Cheshire Brine Subsidence Board
 - Transport for the North: General Purposes Committee
 - Cheshire Pension Fund Committee
 - Manchester Airport Consultative Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Policy Committee

1. Approve the appointment of Councillor Ben Wye as one of the Council's representatives on the Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board.
2. Approve the appointment of Councillor Michael Gorman as the Council's representative on the Transport for the North: General Purposes Committee.
3. Approve the appointment of Councillor Cllr Joy Bratherton as one of the Council's representatives on the Cheshire Pension Fund.
4. Approve the appointment of Councillor Mark Goldsmith as the Council's representative on the Manchester Airport Consultative Committee.
5. Note that these appointments will run until the Council's representation on all outside organisations is reviewed following the election of the new Council in 2027.

Background

- 4 The Constitution states that the Corporate Policy Committee will appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies and organisations. Appointments to outside organisations were last made in July 2023 and members who were appointed will serve until such time as representation is reviewed following the election of a new Council in 2027.
- 5 When making appointments to Outside Organisations there is no requirement to adopt the rules of proportionality applicable to the distribution of committee seats.

Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board

- 6 The Corporate Policy Committee, as its meeting on 11 July 2023 appointed Councillors Anna Burton, Laura Crane, Steven Edgar, Garnett Marshall and John Wray as the Council's representatives on the Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board.
- 7 Councillor Anna Burton has requested to stand-down from her position on this outside organisation.
- 8 Previous appointment

Councillor Anna Burton

9 Proposed new appointment

Councillor Ben Wye

- 10 The Cheshire Brine Pumping (Compensation for Subsidence) Act, 1952 set up a single Compensation District covering the areas of Cheshire where there was the potential for subsidence resulting from the pumping of brine. The Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board was formed in order to discharge the duties set out in the Act.

Transport for the North: General Purposes Committee

- 11 At its meeting on 11 July 2023, the Corporate Policy Committee appointed Councillor Laura Crane to the Transport for the North: General Purposes Committee.

- 12 The Transport for the North requires that members appointed to the General Purposes Committee must be a member of the Transport for the North Board. Councillor Michael Gorman was appointed to the Transport for the North Board as the Council's representative and therefore, should be appointed as the representative on the General Purposes Committee.

13 Previous appointment

Councillor Laura Crane

14 Proposed new appointment

Councillor Michael Gorman

Cheshire Pension Fund Committee

- 15 At its meeting on 11 July 2023, the Corporate Policy Committee appointed Cllrs Rachel Bailey, Sam Corcoran, Michael Gorman and Judy Snowball as the Council's representatives on the Cheshire Pension Fund Committee.

- 16 Councillor Judy Snowball has requested to stand-down from her position on this outside organisation.

17 Previous appointment

Councillor Judy Snowball

18 Proposed new appointment

Cllr Joy Bratherton

Manchester Airport Consultative Committee

- 19 At its meeting on 11 July 2023, the Corporate Policy Committee appointed Cllr Chris Hillard as the Council’s representative on the Manchester Airport Consultative Committee.
- 20 Councillor Chris Hillard has requested to stand-down from their position on this outside organisation.
- 21 Previous appointment
Councillor Chris Hillard
- 22 Proposed new appointment
Councillor Mark Goldsmith

Consultation and Engagement

- 23 There is no requirement for public consultation on this report. The Political Groups have previously been consulted upon the political representation on all outside bodies.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 24 In accordance with the Constitution, the Corporate Policy Committee is responsible for the appointment of replacement members to the outside bodies referred to in this report.
- 25 It is important for the Council to appoint members to Outside Organisations to ensure that it continues to represent the interests of both the Authority and the wider community.

Other Options Considered

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Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	Failure to appoint Members could have a direct or indirect impact on the organisation and could lead to the Council and its communities’ interests not being fully represented.	Not appointing to Outside Organisations would not be of benefit to the Council as making appointments ensures the interests of the Council and wider community are represented.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 27 Whilst membership of outside organisations carries with it the potential for personal liability for elected Members undertaking such roles as ancillary to their status as a Councillor, particularly in respect of trusteeships, Cheshire East Borough Council's Cabinet resolved on 9 February 2016 to put in place for elected Members the maximum indemnity which is allowed by law (Minute 105 refers).
- 28 Appointments to outside organisations and bodies lies within the remit of the Corporate Policy Committee.
- 29 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers local authorities to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions, and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers them to do anything they consider likely to achieve the object of the promotion of the economic, social, or environmental well-being of their area. In addition, there is now the general power of competence under the Localism Act 2011. These are the main provisions which the Council would rely on to appoint members to outside organisations or to select those bodies to which they are appointed.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 30 There are no financial implications that require an amendment to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 31 The Members Allowance Scheme states that attendance at meetings of outside organisations on which Cheshire East Council is invited to be represented is an approved duty for the claiming of travel expenses and allowances.

Policy

- 32 There are no direct policy implications.

An open and enabling organisation
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Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 33 There are no direct equality, diversity and inclusion implications.

Human Resources

34 There are no direct human resources implications.

Risk Management

35 Failure to appoint Members to Outside Organisations could have a direct or indirect impact on the organisations, which can be mitigated by the operations of a procedure for making timely appointments to ensure Council representation.

Rural Communities

36 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

37 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

Public Health

38 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

39 There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None.
Background Papers:	None.