

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the outcomes of the review of outside bodies undertaken by the Governance and Ethics Committee cross party working group.

Information

Background

2. At its meeting of 13 June 2018, Governance and Ethics Committee established a cross party working group to undertake a review of the Council's register of outside bodies. The review had originally been requested by Policy Committee, specifically with regard to consideration of the ongoing need for, and relevance of, the Council's involvement with the various bodies and also to monitor the attendance of the Council's representatives (primarily Councillors) at meetings of those bodies. In establishing the working group, Governance & Ethics Committee agreed that the scope of the review should also include the process for making appointments to outside bodies. The working group was made up of Councillors Andy Sissons (Chair), Keith Walker, Nicki Brooks and Rachel Madden. The group met on three occasions in order to undertake the review which was supported by Democratic Services.
3. Evidence was collected from the majority of outside bodies on the register and all those Councillors who have been appointed as Council representatives
4. Governance and Ethics Committee at its meeting on 1 May 2019 welcomed and endorsed the working group's recommendations for submission to Policy Committee for approval.
5. In broad terms the working group's recommendations focus on categorising the overall register into three sub-categories and removing those bodies that are either defunct or do not meet the definition of an outside body for the purposes of the register. The route for feeding back relevant information from outside bodies to the Council via committees has been clarified. The recommendations also propose processes for raising any concerns about a Council representative's attendance at meetings of outside bodies, adding or removing outside bodies from the register and making appointments to those bodies on the register.
6. Where the review highlighted any discrepancies in terms of bodies which should be included these were also addressed as part of this process. Similarly, where Councillor appointments had been subsequently updated these were also reflected within the updated lists.

7. The Working Group's Recommendations, endorsed by Governance & Ethics Committee are as follows:-

- a) That the approach to divide the various types of organisations within the Outside Bodies register to the following three categories be agreed:-
 - i) Organisations which have been established or are owned or partly owned by Nottinghamshire County Council (see **Appendix A**)
 - ii) Local or national organisations that are linked to the strategic focus of the Council (see **Appendix B**)
 - iii) Local community groups, charities and partnerships whose primary focus is on local community issues (see **Appendix C**)

It is also recommended that the Council should continue to engage with those bodies included in a further category of planning liaison committees but that these should not be included in the register (see **Appendix D**);

- b) That those bodies highlighted in bold font in Appendix B & C be removed from the register;
- c) That the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Clayworth Educational Foundation be added to the register of outside bodies and the relevant formal appointments be made by the Ruling Group's Group Business Manager.
- d) That the proposed approach for sharing information about outside bodies with relevant committees be agreed and each committee be informed of the relevant outside bodies and their representatives that come within their remit, to enable information to be requested from the Council's representatives on specific bodies as and when required.
- e) That any concerns raised about a lack of attendance by Councillor representatives at meetings of any outside body in the register be raised with the Ruling Group's Group Business Manager and the Group Business Manager of the relevant Councillor as appropriate.
- f) That where appropriate, further clarification be sought as to whether the number of Councillor appointments can be reduced on any outside bodies (specifically Lambs Charity and SACRE).
- g) That the proposed process for adding or removing outside bodies to the register via six monthly update reports to Policy Committee be agreed and authority be delegated to the Team Manager, Democratic Services, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to categorise any new outside bodies and to add Category B bodies to the register.
- h) That appointments to any outside bodies included in the register continue to be made by the Ruling Group's Group Business Manager, in consultation with the Group Business Manager of the relevant opposition group/s where appropriate.

8. Further details about the review and the reasons for the recommendations are available through the report to Governance and Ethics Committee of 1 May 2019 (see link in list of Background Papers).

Other Options Considered

9. In drawing its conclusions, the working group considered different options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. Policy Committee requested that the Governance and Ethics Committee review the Outside Bodies process.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Policy Committee approves the recommendations of the working group as outlined in paragraph 7 above and as further detailed in the working group's report to Governance and Ethics Committee.

Councillor Bruce Laughton
Chair of Governance & Ethics Committee

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Constitutional Comments (SLB – 29/04/2019)

13. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (RWK – 29/04/2019)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Responses to Questionnaires from Outside Bodies and Council representatives;
- Report of working group - [Review of Outside Bodies - Governance and Ethics Committee - 1 May 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All