

Cherwell District Council

Executive

6 July 2020

Appointment of Representatives to Partnerships, Outside Bodies and Member Champions 2020/2021

Report of Corporate Director – Commercial Development, Assets and Property (Interim Monitoring Officer)

This report is public

Purpose of report

To appoint representatives to Partnerships and Outside Bodies and Member Champions for the municipal year 2020/2021.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To make and cease appointments to partnerships, outside bodies and Member Champions for 2020/2021 as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to appoint Members to outstanding vacancies and make changes to appointments as may be required for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Appointments to outside bodies and partnerships and Member Champion appointments are made annually. To enable appointments to be made in a timely manner, Executive is requested to consider and agree appointments for 2020/2021 and delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to appoint to any vacancies and make changes as required during the municipal year.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Appointments are usually required to be updated following local elections each year, following retirement or Councillors not being re-elected. Due to the current situation with Covid-19, the local elections due to take place in May 2020 were postponed until May 2021. Those Members who were due to stand for election have had their terms of office automatically extended for one year.

- 3.2 As the Annual Meeting of the Council has been postponed and Committee memberships remain unchanged, the same approach will be taken with Outside Body and Member Champion appointments.
- 3.3 Executive is required to reconfirm appointments made in 2019/2020, to enable representatives to continue the roles in 2020/21.

Representatives on Outside Bodies and Partnerships

- 3.4 The business of local government includes considerable partnership working and work in the community. The Council's and a Councillors' representational role is enhanced and strengthened by participating in outside bodies.
- 3.5 Members are appointed annually to serve as representatives on outside bodies and partnerships.

Member Champions

- 3.6 The Terms of Reference for Member Champions include the following with regards to their role and appointment:
1. Member Champions will only be appointed in support of agreed Council policies and objectives and shall be elected members of Cherwell District Council.
 2. Member Champions may be created by Council, the Executive or the Leader of the Council. Member Champions will remain in their role until the expiration of their term of office as a Councillor, when the relevance of the appointment will be reviewed. The appointing body or office holder may decide at any point to review and terminate the appointment of a member Champion for good reason.
 3. Member Champions shall have no Executive or decision making powers and may not instruct officers. Champions shall not duplicate the work of Committee Chairmen and Executive members and shall ensure they liaise with and advise them appropriately. Member Champions may not commit the Council to any course of action or any Council resources.
 4. Member Champions shall not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance, but shall be able to re-claim travelling and subsistence expenses in line with the agreed scheme and may attend appropriate events, seminars, training and conferences, subject to budget availability.
 5. Each Member Champion will have a link officer assigned from within the relevant or most appropriate service area. Officers will bring issues, initiatives and areas of work to the attention of Member Champions.
- 3.7 Within their Terms of Reference, Member Champions may carry out the following functions with regard to the issue for which they have been appointed Member Champion:
- Ambassador - to raise the profile of an issue, provide a visible focus and raise the profile of an issue both internally and externally to the Council;
 - Adviser to the Council in relation to the issue to provide a source expertise;

- Bringing issues to the Council's attention;
- Liaising with and providing a bridge between the Council and external groups, bodies and communities; and
- May be appointed by Council to outside bodies by virtue of office.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 It is proposed that representatives are re-appointed to Partnerships, Outside Bodies and as Member Champions as set out at Appendix 1 to ensure that the Council is represented and maintains links with partnerships and outside bodies.
- 4.2 Delegation to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader provides flexibility for the remainder of the Municipal Year to appoint to the outstanding vacancies, or if amendments are required to any appointments, and ensures they are made in a timely manner.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to appoint representatives to outside bodies, partnerships and as Member Champions. This is not recommended as the internal working groups would be ineffective and the Council would not be represented on these outside bodies and could miss valuable information and opportunities.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report and travel for members to attend meetings is included within agreed budgets.

Comments checked by:

Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance, 01295 221526, lorna.baxter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Chris Mace, Solicitor, 01295 221808, christopher.mace@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 Through providing support for representatives and indemnity insurance the council has mitigated the risks posed through appointing members to partnerships and outside bodies.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

Wards Affected

N/A

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Lead Councillor

Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Appointments to Outside Bodies, Partnerships and Member Champions 2020/2021 |
| Background Papers | |
| None | |
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