

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Executive**

**6 June 2022**

### **Appointments to Partnerships, Outside Bodies and Member Champions 2022/2023**

#### **Report of Assistant Director – Law, Governance and Democratic Services (Interim)**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of report**

To appoint representatives to Partnerships, Outside Bodies and Member Champions where these are executive functions, for the municipal year 2022/2023.

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To make and cease appointments to partnerships, outside bodies, the Shareholder Committee, Member Champions and advisory groups for 2022/2023 as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Law, Governance and Democratic Services (Interim), in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to appoint Members to any outstanding vacancies and make changes to appointments as may be required for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

#### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 Appointments to outside bodies and partnerships and Member Champion appointments are made annually.
- 2.2 Paragraph 2.2 of section 2 of the Constitution, Committee Terms of Reference, states that appointing representatives to outside bodies is a Full Council function, “unless the appointment is an executive function” The appointments listed at Appendix 1 are Executive functions.
- 2.3 To enable appointments to be made in a timely manner, Executive is requested to consider and agree appointments for 2022/2023 and delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Law, Governance and Democratic Services (Interim), 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 required to be reviewed following local elections each year, following retirement of Councillors or Councillors not being re-elected and where there are changes to Executive portfolios.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 gives details of the appointments made for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year. Following the 2022 elections, there are vacancies as a result of retiring or non-retained members. The proposed appointments for 2022/2023 are set out on Appendix 1 and are in accordance with nominations by the Leader.

#### **Representatives on Outside Bodies and Partnerships**

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Members are appointed annually to serve as representatives on outside bodies and partnerships.
- 3.5 Part 19 of the council's [Constitution](#), "An Advice Note for Councillors serving on Outside Organisations", was agreed by all Oxfordshire councils and adopted in August 2015. The note provides general advice for councillors about some issues which can and do arise when they are appointed to serve on partnerships and outside bodies.

#### **Shareholder Committee**

- 3.6 The Shareholder Committee is a sub-committee of Executive, comprising three Executive Members. The role of the Committee is not operational, it is the means by which the Council shall:
- Be the body for approving council nominated non-executive directors, and approving best practice policies in relation to such appointments, considering any reserved shareholder matters within the company articles;
  - Be responsible for agreeing and approving the framework within which the council interfaces with Council owned/influenced companies;
  - Exercise strategic functions flowing from the council's ownership of shares.
- 3.7 The membership of the Shareholder Committee in 2021/22 was Councillors Wood, Illott and Wing. Councillor Wing stood down from the council and Councillor Illott was not re-elected in May 2022.
- 3.8 Executive is asked to confirm the membership of the Shareholder Committee for 2022/23.

#### **Member Champions**

- 3.9 Following a review of Member Champions in December 2021, only one Member Champion role has been retained, Military Member Champion, as this role is not covered by an existing Executive Portfolio.

- 3.10 The role of Military Member Champion was previously held by Councillor Andrew McHugh, who stood down in May 2022.
- 3.11 Within their Terms of Reference, a Member Champion 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.

#### **Informal Advisory Groups**

- 3.12 There are currently two established cross-party informal groups: Castle Quay Working Advisory Group and the Local Plan Review Members' Sub-Group.
- 3.13 The groups operate in an advisory capacity only and have no decision making powers. They are administered by the relevant service area.

### **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is proposed that representatives are 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 Assistant Director – Law, Governance and Democratic Services (Interim), in consultation with the Leader provides flexibility for the remainder of the Municipal Year to appoint to any outstanding vacancies, or if amendments are required to any appointments, and ensures they are made in a timely manner.

### **5.0 Consultation**

Leader of the Council

### **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. Travel for members to attend meetings is included within agreed budgets.

Comments checked by:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance. 01295 221845

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### **Legal Implications**

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. Appointments to the roles listed are within the remit of the Executive, as explained in paragraph 2.2 above.

Comments checked by:

Helen Lolas, Solicitor. 07801 400941 [helen.lolas@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:helen.lolas@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:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Interim Assistant Director – Customer Focus, 01295 221556

[Celia.Prado-Teeling@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Celia.Prado-Teeling@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### **Equalities and Inclusion Implications**

- 7.4 There are no equalities and inclusion implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Interim Assistant Director – Customer Focus, 01295 221556

[Celia.Prado-Teeling@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Celia.Prado-Teeling@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### **Sustainability Implications**

- 7.5 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

## 8.0 Decision Information

### Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

### Wards Affected

Not applicable

### Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

### Lead Councillor

Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy

## Document Information

### Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 – Appointments to Outside Bodies, Partnerships and Member Champions 2022/2023

### Background papers

None

### Report Author and contact details

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