

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'E1'

### REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- 1.1 The nominations have been reviewed and are contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'E2'**.
- 1.2 Each year representatives are asked to confirm that there are continuing benefits from the Council's representation and the organisations are asked to provide information on their finances and plans. The returns are held by the Director of Finance and Support Services. Representatives will be asked to complete a short annual report which is contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'E3'**.
- 1.3 One or more of the following factors will generally apply:
  - Representation on an organisation which represents local authorities and where the Council's nominee represents the local government community generally and district councils in particular drawing on their East Herts experience and knowledge.
  - Representation on an organisation which is a key influencer on issue of a priority to East Herts.
  - Ability to report back into the Council information, proposals and issues for the benefits of delivering Council objectives.
  - Contribute to the organisation of the Member's skills and abilities to further the objectives of the organisation for the benefit of East Herts residents.
  - Create networks between the Council and other organisations for mutual benefits.
  - Organisations which are able to identify and communicate local issues which can inform the Council's community leadership.
  - Development opportunities for members to develop their skills and abilities around influencing, communication, chairmanship and reporting.
- 1.4 In considering the Council's representation the key questions are:

- What are the benefits to the Council?
- What are the benefits to the individual Member?
- What are the benefits to the organisation?
- Are there potential conflicts of interest where an organisation may wish to pursue a course of action which is not consistent with the Council's policy or priorities?

1.5 As noted above the Member concerned is expected to judge these points and can seek advice from the Monitoring Officer on the final point on a case by case basis.

1.6 A more formal reporting process is being introduced which asks Members to produce a brief annual report on the work of the organisation.

1.7 In some cases (for example national organisations) this might include a reference to an annual report by the organisation either held by the Director of Finance and Support Services or by reference to a web link address.