

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Report by: Ben Crystall – Leader of the Council

Report title: Reports by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the civic year 2023 - 24

Wards affected: All

Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Annual Council

- (A) That the reports of Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the 2023-24 civic year be received and noted.**
- (B) That a review of Outside Bodies for 2024/25 be undertaken, and reported back at a future Council meeting.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 That the reports by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the 2023 – 2024 civic year be received and noted.
- 1.2 That a review of Outside Bodies for 2024/25 be undertaken.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the Annual Council meeting each year Council appoints Members to serve on various outside bodies and the reports review these Members' involvement on these bodies.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 In order to increase transparency and improve the process for reviewing activities of Outside Bodies, Members appointed to

Outside Bodies compile an annual report on their involvement and activities on these Outside Bodies. This provides an opportunity for Members to report back and to highlight any issues that might need to be addressed.

- 3.2 To improve consistency in reporting, Members were requested to use a standard report template when compiling their reports.
- 3.3 To review all the Outside Bodies on which East Herts Councillors currently sit. This review will identify which appointments continue to be beneficial, which appointments may no longer be required (for example, should an Outside Body be defunct) and to identify any new Outside Bodies which might benefit from East Herts Councillor representation. The review would also seek to improve relationships with Outside Bodies and deepen the understanding of their work.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 No other options are considered for recommendation a) as this is a requirement in accordance with the Council Constitution.
- 4.2 Should a review of Outside Bodies for not be undertaken as per recommendation b), there will be no assurance that the current list of Outside Bodies on which East Herts Councillors sit remains updated and appropriate. There would also be a risk that there may be Outside Bodies which do not have East Herts Councillor representation.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Reputational. Members appointed to an Outside Body could act contrary to East Herts Council policies/guidelines. As this is unlikely, the Risk is classified as minor.
- 5.2 Financial. Members could claim substantial expenses if an Outside Body had a large number of meetings. As most Outside Bodies have a set number of meetings, this was unlikely and the Risk is classified as minor.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Appendix A – Outside Body reports

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