

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2026

Report by: Ben Crystall - Leader of the Council

Report title: Reports by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the civic year 2025/26

Wards affected: All

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Annual Council

- (A) That the reports of Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the 2025 - 26 civic year be received and noted.**
- (B) That the removal of Hertford Museum Trust from the list of Outside Bodies be noted.**
- (C) That the change in Councillor representation for Ware Charities be noted.**
- (D) That the change of name for East of England LGA, now known as Local Government East, be noted.**
- (E) That the change of name for Local Government District Council Network, now known as Local Council Network, be noted.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 The proposals seek to receive and note the reports submitted by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the 2025 - 2026 civic year, alongside acknowledging several updates to the Council's Outside Bodies arrangements. These include the removal of Hertford Museum Trust from the list of Outside Bodies, a change in Councillor representation for Ware Charities, and the formal noting of name changes for two organisations: from East of England LGA to Local Government East, and from Local Government District Council Network to Local Council Network.

2.0 Background

2.1 At the Annual Council meeting each year Council determines the arrangements for Outside Bodies and receives annual updates on outside body activities from appointed Members.

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 A review of the Outside Bodies on which East Herts Councillors sit was undertaken in 2025, the results of which were reported at Annual Council on [14 May 2025](#). The review identified which appointments continued to be beneficial, which appointments were no longer required (for example, those Outside Bodies which were defunct) and identified any new Outsides Bodies which would benefit from East Herts Councillor representation. The review also sought to improve relationships with Outside Bodies and deepen the understanding of their work. Democratic Services subsequently implemented new administrative processes to support both Members and the Outside Bodies in this.

3.4 Hertford Museum Trust was removed from the list of Outside Bodies on 12 January 2026 - following confirmation from the Chair of its Trustee Board that they no longer require an East Herts representative. Hertford Museum Trust have advised that they are revising their governance structure and intend to form into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The trust receives no funding from East Herts Council.

3.5 There has been a change to the representative for Ware Charities - with Councillor Hill superseding Councillor Butcher on 16 March 2026.

3.6 There has been a change of name for East of England LGA, who

are now known as Local Government East.

- 3.7 There has been a change of name for Local Government District Council Network, who are now known as Local Council Network.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 No other options are considered for recommendation a) as this is a requirement in accordance with the Council Constitution.

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 is 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 1 – Outside Body Annual Update reports.

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