



Date of Meeting: 16 May 2019

Lead Officer: Jonathan Mair – Corporate Director: Legal and Democratic
(Monitoring Officer)

Executive Summary:

This report seeks the appointment of members to outside bodies, joint bodies and other working groups and panels. Three appendices to the report provide lists of the bodies serving the Dorset Council area, which are broadly split into joint bodies and other significant bodies, outside (external) bodies, and local member appointments.

Due to the time available for political groups to consider appointments to all bodies, Group Leaders have been asked to provide their nominations (to be shared at the meeting) to serve on joint bodies and other significant bodies, including national associations, which require urgent appointment (Appendix 1). Appointments to these bodies are in accordance with political proportionality which provides for political groups to have the same proportion of places on bodies as their share of the total membership of the Council.

Delegation is sought to enable the Monitoring Officer to make appointments and fill vacancies after consultation with Group Leaders for all bodies following the Full Council meeting on 16 May 2019. Appointments to outside bodies at Appendix 2 will be undertaken as a priority following the meeting.

In addition, approval is sought to a range of local member appointments which are detailed at Appendix 3.

This report also seeks a fundamental review of appointments to all bodies, which will consider their terms of reference to refine the list where necessary as the bodies included in the report have all been drawn from the former sovereign councils. This review will ensure that membership and participation reflect the contribution of the body to the work of the Council, to emerging priorities identified in the corporate plan, and/or the value of the Council's participation and its impact on communities and residents of Dorset. It is suggested that a Task and Finish Group of five members, to be nominated by Group Leaders on a proportional basis, undertake the review.

All appointments will be held until the next Council elections, or until the outcome of the review of appointments changes the bodies that the Council wishes to contribute to.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report does not contain a new strategy/policy/function and therefore does not require an impact equality assessment. However, the fundamental review of all bodies may require an EqlA to be completed in due course.

Budget:

Travelling and subsistence allowances are claimable by members in respect of some of these organisations, as set out in the Members Allowances Scheme.

There is an inherent budgetary impact on the Council of making appointments to outside bodies, partnerships and other bodies in relation to the cost of members' travel to attend meetings and further cost of attending any specific conferences and training associated with these bodies.

Risk Assessment:

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk LOW

Other Implications:

None

Recommendations:

1. That the appointment of councillors to joint bodies and other significant bodies at Appendix 1, in accordance with political proportionality, be approved;
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments and to fill vacancies where appropriate;
3. That the appointment of councillors to local member positions at Appendix 3 be approved; and,
4. That a fundamental review of appointments be undertaken by a Task and Finish Group comprising five members, to be nominated by Group Leaders, and for the review to be reported back to Council on 17 October 2019.

Reason for Recommendations:

To support good governance through appointments to bodies of a statutory responsibility or have a community value to the Council.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Joint Committees and Other Significant Bodies

Appendix 2 – Outside Bodies, Working Groups and Panels

Appendix 3 – Local Member Appointments

Background Papers:

None

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