

## **CABINET – 17 JUNE 2014**

### **APPOINTMENTS 2014/15**

#### **Report by Chief Legal Officer**

#### **Introduction**

1. The report asks the Cabinet to consider member appointments to a variety of bodies which in different ways support the discharge of the Council's executive functions. The report reflects the basis on which appointments to the respective bodies have been made in the past and, subject to any adjustments that may be considered appropriate, invites the Cabinet to agree arrangements for filling the councillor places on those bodies.
2. The schedule only refers to those appointments which are the direct responsibility of Cabinet to make. There are other outside body appointments that are the responsibility of the Remuneration Committee or local processes as appropriate.

#### **Joint Committees**

3. These are formal bodies set up to exercise statutory functions jointly with other authorities. Members of joint committees exercising executive functions must be members of the Cabinet.

The current joint committees are listed in **Section 1** of the Annex to this report.

#### **Local Statutory Bodies**

4. The County Council is required to set up and run a number of local bodies in connection with certain of its statutory functions, typically with other organisations. County Council representation is not generally limited to Cabinet Members.

The current local statutory bodies are listed in **Section 2**.

#### **Strategic Partnerships**

5. This category comprises Partnerships which the Cabinet has designated as 'strategic' and whose membership Cabinet has agreed should be linked to the role of Cabinet Member/s and not to individually named members with the exception that the representative on the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership is the representative of the County Council on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel.

The current strategic partnerships are listed in **Section 3**.

## **Standing Advisory Bodies**

6. This category comprises bodies which have been set up on a permanent basis in connection with particular functions. They do not possess executive powers but provide a forum for discussion and liaison. County Council representation is not limited to Cabinet Members.

The current standing advisory bodies are listed in **Section 4**.

## **Informal Member/Officer Working Groups**

7. This is a diverse group of informal bodies set up from time to time to assist with the discharge of the responsibilities of the Cabinet. There is a wide variety of form and purpose, from purely internal management tools to inter-authority forums for overseeing issues of common interest. Members and officers share an equal status on these bodies, which are not subject to the access to information rules applying to formal committees and subcommittees; however, some are open to the public and may allow public address at their meetings.
8. These bodies cannot exercise executive functions themselves but provide available forum for discussion of issues outside the formal decision-making processes. Thus, where voting on such groups is permitted this can only be on the basis of an indicative view and cannot in any way bind the body responsible for the ultimate decision.

The informal member / officer working groups are listed in **Section 5**.

## **Strategic Outside Bodies**

9. The Cabinet is responsible for appointments to those outside bodies which it has identified as 'strategic' and which have been endorsed as such by the Council.
10. Two strategic outside bodies are no longer in existence: The Local Government Association (LGA) Urban Commission and the LGA Rural Commission.
11. The LGA have asked that a the County Council appoint a representative to the LGA Fire Commission. The Fire Commission is a forum for all combined fire and rescue authorities and principal authorities with a fire and rescue service and meets four times per year. The Fire Commission has a management committee which may act on behalf of the Commission. It is suggested that this be identified as a strategic outside body and Council be asked to endorse it as such. Any appointment to the LGA Fire Commission will therefore be subject to such endorsement.

The strategic outside bodies are listed in **Section 6**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- (a) agree the appointments as set out in the Annex to this report, subject to any amendments at the meeting;
- (b) **RECOMMEND** to Council to add the Local Government Association Fire Commission to the list of 'strategic' Outside Bodies to which the Cabinet makes appointments and subject to their agreement to the above to make an appointment.

**PETER CLARK**

Chief Legal Officer

Annex: Appointments Schedule 2014/15

Background papers: Nil

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