

CABINET – 19 JUNE 2018

APPOINTMENTS 2017/18

Report by Director of Law & Governance

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. An exception in the past has been the representative on the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership being 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**.

9. Cabinet at its meeting on 4 June agreed to the principle of implementing joint working arrangements with Cherwell District Council and as part of the initial steps delegated to the Director of Law & Governance in consultation with the Leader the agreement with Cherwell District Council to Terms of Reference of a Partnership Working Group. Under his delegated authority to make appointments the Director of Law & Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council will give effect to the necessary appointments to the Working Group in line with the Terms of Reference once agreed

Strategic Outside Bodies

10. 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.

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

Appointments to sub groups of the Oxfordshire Growth Board

11. The Oxfordshire Growth Board is now responsible for delivery of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal which was agreed by all Oxfordshire authorities and Government in February 2018. The Growth Board Terms of

Reference have been updated to reflect these new responsibilities and new programmes of work required to deliver the commitment in the Deal.

Oxfordshire Growth Board Advisory Sub Groups

12. The Terms of Reference establish advisory sub groups to the Growth Board to oversee programmes of work on infrastructure, housing and the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan. The purpose of the sub groups is to oversee the programmes of work to deliver the commitments in the Deal, to monitor progress against the key milestones and make recommendations to the Growth Board on decisions required. It is expected that the sub groups will normally meet on a quarterly basis.
13. The advisory sub groups will be made up of elected member representatives from each of the constituent councils appointed by the Leader of that council and other representatives as agreed by members of the Growth Board Joint Committee. The Chair of the sub-groups will be appointed by the Growth Board and normally drawn from the voting membership of the Growth Board acting as an independent Chair.
14. ***Cabinet is being asked to nominate a member representative to each of the three boards.***

Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel

15. The Terms of Reference also establishes a new Growth Board Scrutiny Panel to enable effective and coordinated scrutiny of Growth Board functions and decisions. The Scrutiny Panel will be non-statutory to enable flexibility for the constituent councils to reflect local scrutiny membership. The ability of the constituent council Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise the Growth Board will remain. The Terms of Reference and working arrangements for the Scrutiny Panel will be developed with input from the Scrutiny Committee Chairs of the individual councils. The Chair will be elected by the members of the Scrutiny Panel.
16. ***Cabinet are asked to confirm the three member representatives to the Scrutiny Panel.***

Next Steps

17. The report today is largely historical. It does not take into account many of the bodies on which Cabinet members may serve in their role as cabinet members nor does it consider the relevance to the County Council of providing representatives on all of the named bodies. It is recommended that a further review of outside bodies be carried out with a report to the October meeting of Cabinet

RECOMMENDATION

18. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) agree appointments to the bodies set out in the Annex to this report;**
- (b) agree that following a review of appointments a further report is submitted to the October meeting of Cabinet**

NICK GRAHAM
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Annex: Appointments Schedule 2018/19

Background papers: Nil

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June 2018