

DECISION TAKEN BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

Decision title: Appointments to Outside Bodies and Committee Memberships

Officer making the decision: David Clark, Monitoring Officer

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Date of Decision: 3 April 2024

Details of the decision:

The Monitoring Officer has delegated authority, in consultation with the political group leaders to make in-year changes to internal, partnership and Outside Bodies appointments in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group leader.

In accordance with this, the Monitoring Officer has made the following revisions to Somerset Council's Internal, Partnership and Outside Bodies:

Academy for Social Care in Bridgwater (Forum)

To remove Councillor Heather Shearer and former Councillor Dean Ruddle (deceased) from the Forum. Somerset Council will be represented at the Forum by Councillor Ros Wyke and Mel Lock, Executive Director Adult Services.

Corporate Parenting Board

To appoint Councillor Fran Smith as the Associate Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Housing. And to remove Councillors Caroline Ellis, Jenny Kenton and Mandy Chilcott from the Board.

These changes would result in the following elected members of the Corporate Parenting Board being:

Councillor Tessa Munt,
Councillor Jo Roundell Greene,
Councillor Heather Shearer,
Councillor Simon Carswell,
Councillor Liz Leyshon,
Councillor Frances Nicholson,
Councillor Leigh Redman,
Councillor Fran Smith

Parrett Internal Drainage Board

To remove Councillor Richard Wilkins from the Board and to offer this seat to Natural England.

Somerset Catchment Partnership

To add this partnership to the Outside Body arrangement and to appoint Councillor Mike Stanton as Chair of the Somerset Rivers Authority Board.

Somerset Rivers Authority Board

To appoint Councillor Claire Sully as a deputy member for Councillor Ros Wyke on the Somerset Rivers Authority Board. And to remove Councillor Heather Shearer.

This means the make-up of the Somerset Rivers Authority Board will be:

Mike Stanton (Richard Wilkins as deputy),
Dixie Darch (Oliver Patrick as deputy),
Harry Munt (Ben Ferguson as deputy),
Mike Caswell (Tony Grimes as deputy),
Ros Wyke (Claire Sully as deputy) and
Simon Coles (Dawn Johnson as deputy)

Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

To appoint Councillor Sarah Wakefield to the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board.
And to remove Councillor Heather Shearer from it.

Changes to Committee Membership

Details of the decision:

Delegated authority also sits with the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the leaders of the political groups to update Committee Membership. This authority was given at the meeting of full Council on 24 May 2023.

In accordance with this, the Monitoring Officer has made the following changes to Committee Membership:

Audit Committee

To appoint Councillor Gwil Wren to the Audit Committee. And to remove Councillor Shane Collins from it.

To remove Councillor Steve Ashton from the Audit Committee, and leave a vacancy for a Conservative Member.

Harbour Management Advisory Committee

To appoint Councillor Claire Sully to the Harbour Management Advisory Committee. Councillor Sully will join Councillors Andy Hadley, Marcus Kravis, Leigh Redman, Andy Sully and Rosemary Woods

Planning Committee West

To remove Councillor Sarah Wakefield from the Planning Committee West. And to appoint Councillor Habib Farbahi as a Liberal Democrat Member of the Committee. This will leave a vacancy for a Green/Labour/Independent Member.

Planning Committee East

To remove Councillor Heather Shearer as a Substitute Member of the Planning Committee East.

Strategic Planning Committee

To appoint Councillor Mike Murphy as a Substitute Member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Reasons for proposed decision:

To update the Internal, Partnerships and Outside Body arrangement with necessary changes as identified for Somerset Council. And also, to update the Membership of Committees with necessary changes as identified for Somerset Council.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposals set out in this report and consensus reached to ensure the bodies listed are fully functional and compliant with the bodies' listed, terms of reference.

Not filling the vacancies, where possible, was rejected as an alternative approach.

Implications considered:

None.

Background papers:

Report of the Monitoring Officer, Full Council AGM, 24 May 2023.

Internal, Partnerships and Outside Body Arrangement List held by the Council on SharePoint and ModGov.

Committee Membership records held on ModGov at the Council

Report and Minutes of Executive held 7 February 2024.

The following consultation has been completed:	Councillor	Date
Local Somerset Councillors consulted where the decision directly affects their Division	N/A	N/A
Relevant Executive Member(s) consulted	Bill Revans as Leader of the Council and Liz Leyshon as Deputy Leader	
Opposition Spokesperson(s) consulted/informed	David Fothergill, Dave Mansell, Leigh Redman and John Hunt as Leaders of the Opposition Parties	

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision, have considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses (where applicable) and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:

Name: David Clark

Post: Monitoring Officer

Date: 3 April 2024