

24 May 2023

Report of the Monitoring Officer – Paper B
Appointments to internal, partnership and outside bodies

Executive Member(s): Cllr Liz Leyshon, Deputy Leader of the Council

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge - Monitoring Officer and Head of Governance & Democratic Services

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Summary / Background

1. This report sets out the proposed nominations for the appointment of members to internal, partnerships and outside bodies for 2023/24, following the meeting of Council on 1 March 2023.
2. As a result, this report sets out the recommended changes to the Members appointed to serve on the bodies listed, as advised by relevant political group leaders to the Monitoring Officer (see Appendix 1 – likely to be published on 23 May). Council is asked to note that a detailed review of outside and partnership bodies is currently being undertaken. It is anticipated that a report on the outcome of that review will be submitted to Council by no later than February 2024.

Recommendations

3. **That the Council :**
 1. **Agrees the appointment of members to internal, partnership and outside bodies for 2023/24 until the next Annual General Meeting, as set out in Appendix 1; and**
 2. **Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the 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.**

Reasons for recommendations

4. The Council and the Leader of the Council (for some of the bodies) appoints Members to serve on a range of internal and external bodies. Council is therefore recommended to approve the appointments listed in **Appendix 1**.
5. Appendix 1 sets out the nominations for appointments to internal, partnerships and outside bodies to which it is responsible for making appointments. These include national, regional, countywide, and local bodies and partnerships. In some cases, these are strategic organisations where Members can shape and influence better outcomes for Somerset's communities and policy affecting Somerset. In others, the role of the appointed Member is important in promoting the relationship with the Council.
6. Council is reminded that further work is being undertaken by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the political group leaders and Executive Directors, to review the Council's role and membership in the various outside and partnership bodies to which appointments are made. This review will be reported to Council in by no later than February 2024.

Other options considered

7. It is in the interests of the Council to ensure the appointments are made as soon as practicable both from a reputational and governance perspective.

Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

8. The nominations combined touch on all of the Council's objectives. Representation on the outside and partnership bodies will assist with the Council's community leadership responsibilities.

Financial and Risk Implications

10. No additional special responsibility allowance is payable by the Council for appointments to the outside and partnership bodies listed in Appendix 1. Any travel and subsistence claims in accordance with the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2023/24 will be met by the Members Expenses budget 2023/24.

11. It is important to ensure that all appointments are made and maintained as soon as practicably possible to ensure those bodies are fully functional and the Council’s interests are represented.

Likelihood	1	Impact	5	Risk Score	5
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Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report. All of the appointments listed accord with the Council’s Constitution and legislation.

HR Implications

14. There are none.

Other Implications:

15. Equalities, Community Safety, Climate Change and Sustainability, Health and Safety, Health and Wellbeing
16. The Council’s duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 is to have “due regard” to the matters set out in relation to equalities when considering and making decisions on the provision of services. There are no direct impacts of these recommendations on the provision of services. There are no direct impacts on sustainability, health and safety, community safety or privacy aspects as a result of this proposal. Members will however, be expected to have regard to these matters when representing the Council on these bodies and generally.

Background Papers

- Council’s Constitution
- Somerset County Council – 1 March 2023 – reports and minutes
- Monitoring Officer delegated decision – 12 April 2023 - decision notice

Appendices

- **Appendix 1 – Changes and appointments to places on outside and partnership bodies**