

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE

meeting date: WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2023
title: REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Principal Author: MAIR HILL – HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the current position regarding representation on outside bodies and seek their approval of a review of the current arrangements.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – }
- Corporate Priorities – }
- Other Considerations –

The Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its Members. Review of the Council's representation on outside bodies as a part of that duty.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Each year at the Annual Council, the Council appoints or nominates many of its members as representatives on a number of outside bodies. A list of the current nominations/appointments (as approved at Annual Council 2021) is enclosed as Appendix 1.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Many of the Council's appointments onto outside bodies are historic or are a requirement of a lease between the Council and a body to whom it has leased its land or property. The Council has previously considered that it was beneficial for it to have representatives on these outside bodies. However, increasingly members are required to become Directors or Trustees on the outside bodies which means that they are not just the Council's representative on that body but in fact owe the outside body a duty by virtue of the appointment. This has implications and potential liabilities for those members. Some bodies are also now asking for applications and references before the Council's nominated member will be accepted as a representative on the body and acceptance is not always forthcoming.

3.2 As a result, it is considered prudent, for the Council to review the list of outside bodies and the requirements of those bodies, so that it can review whether it should continue to make such nominations and, in the event, that it does to consider whether any additional measures need to be put in place prior to Annual Council. It is proposed that this review be carried out by a Working Group which would report back to this Committee. This Committee can then, in line with its scrutiny function, make any recommendations it

considers appropriate to Council so that any new arrangements can be approved prior to Annual Council.

- 3.3 It is also proposed that training should be provided for all members the implications for them on being appointed to an outside body and how they should manage any such risks or conflicts. This will be provided before the end of this municipal year.

4 **RISK ASSESSMENT**

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Resources will be required to carry out the review.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – The Council's reputation will be enhanced by its consideration of its arrangements with outside bodies.
- Equality & Diversity – N/A

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Approve the establishment of a Working Group to review the Council's representation on outside bodies, and
- 5.2 Note that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services will make provision for training to all members on their role on outside bodies.

MAIR HILL
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Mair Hill extension 4418