

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE

meeting date: WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2022
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 recommendations of the working group regarding representation on outside bodies.

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. On 3 February 2022, Committee agreed to establish a working group to review the current list of outside bodies. The working group met on 4 and 18 March 2022. Copies of the notes of those meetings are enclosed at **Appendix 1 & 2**. The recommendations of the working group are detailed below.

2.2 Committee also resolved that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services should arrange for training to be provided to members of the issues surrounding membership of outside bodies. Training is to be provided on 21 April 2022 and members have been contacted regarding this.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Working Group recommends that the Council no longer make nominations to the following outside bodies and for the following reasons:

- **Children's Trust** – the group is no longer active, and the current nominee has been contacted by them to confirm this is the case.
- **East Lancashire Health & Wellbeing Partnership** – The group no longer meets and has been replaced by new structures. Representation is established through Lancashire Chief Executives and East Lancashire Leaders.
- **Pendle Club** – It is felt by members that matters should better be raised with ward councillors.

- **Environment Agency Liaison Committee** – This group was not effective, and the Council would be better informed if the Environment Agency was requested to attend and/or report to Health and Housing Committee directly.
- **Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Foundation** – as a major landowner in the borough, it was felt that membership of the foundation raised potential conflicts for members.
- **Police and Crime Panel** – it is not considered that this is necessary as an appointment to an outside body as it is a political appointment.
- **Carer's Link** – It was felt that this body could be better served by a member who was already a Trustee in their own right.

3.2 The Working Group recommends that representation is amended on the following groups:

- **Salesbury & Copster Green Commons Management Committee** – There are currently 3 members nominated to this group. It is considered that this should be reduced to 1. This is a relatively small area of common land, and it is felt that 1 member could adequately represent the Council. In order to do so however, steps would need to be taken to seek agreed on amendments to the Constitution of the management committee which was established by the Council in 1991. It is proposed therefore that representation remain at current levels until the position is resolved.
- **Hanson Cement Liaison Committee** – it is proposed that representation be reduced from 5 members to 3. It is considered that this provides adequate representation on the Committee
- **Tarmac Liaison Committee** – it is proposed that representation be reduced on this group from 4 to 2 members as this provides adequate representation.
- **Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership** – currently a conservative member and an independent member are nominated to this body. It is proposed that this be increased to three members to allow for cross party representation.

3.3 It is proposed that the type of appointment should be altered in respect of the following organisations. It is considered by the Working Group that members being Trustees of these groups can lead to conflicts and so they should instead be observers. If Committee agrees the bodies shall be approached for their views. These would then be reported to Council:

- **Ribble Valley Sports & Recreation (Roefield Leisure Centre)**
- **Citizens' Advice Bureau**
- **Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Council for Voluntary Services**

3.4. It is proposed that the remainder of the nominations continue to be made as per arrangements in previous years.

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 proposals set out at paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4 and recommend them to Council.

MAIR HILL
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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REF: MJH/Accounts & Audit/06/04/2022