

Report of: Head of Legal and Democratic Services
To: Executive Board
Date: 17th July, 2006 Item No:
Title of Report : APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To agree appointment to outside bodies for the 2006/07 Council Year

Key decision: No

Scrutiny Responsibility: Not Applicable

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rundle – Stronger Communities

Legal Services: Jeremy Thomas

Financial Services: Andy Collett

Policy Framework: None

Recommendation(s): This report sets out the outside bodies to which the Board is asked to make appointments and **RECOMMENDS:-**

1. the appoint of representatives to the bodies listed in Appendix I to this report; and in so doing take consideration of the observations set out in paragraph 1.4 below;

2. to appoint the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Children and Young People to the Children and Young People's Board;

3. to consider appointing to the Council of Ruskin College and in so doing agree the number of Council representatives to appoint;

4. to consider appointing a Director to the Guided Transport Express for Oxford following Mr. Stan Taylor's resignation.

5. to agree the appointments to Charitable Trusts as detailed in paragraph 2 below.

1. Bodies to which the Committee Appoints Representatives

- 1.1 Appendix I to this report details the outside bodies to which the Committee is invited to appoint representatives on behalf of the Council. It also shows who was appointed as the Council's representative(s) in 2005/2006.
- 1.2 Councillors serve in one of two capacities, namely as a non-voting observer or a voting member. Appendix I indicates the capacity in which last year's representative(s) served on the body referred to.
- 1.3 The Members' Services Officer holds information setting out the aims of each organisation and the frequency of its meetings for the majority of the bodies to which the Board makes appointments. If Councillors require further information about an organisation they should contact the Members' Services Officer direct.
- 1.4 The Board is asked to note that:-
 - 1.4.1 Ruskin College, during the course of the 2005/06 Council Year, contacted the Chief Executive to inform her that in the past there have been up to five vacancies for City Council representatives on the Council of Ruskin College. Pamela Roberts, the Council's Diversity Co-ordinator, now attends meetings as an officer representative but the College would also welcome Councillor involvement. The Council meets twice a year, at the end of November/beginning of December and at its AGM in June on Fridays starting at 11.00 am and usually finishing by 1.00 pm;
 - 1.4.2 the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre has contacted the Members' Services Officer to say that the previous representative on this body was unable to attend meetings on a regular basis. They have asked that the representative appointed be available to attend meetings, which are held up to four times a year in the evenings;
 - 1.4.3 the Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager has advised that a City Council nominee is required on the Children and Youth People's Board. It is suggested that this be the portfolio holder with responsibility for Children and Young People;

- 1.4.4 Ealing Family Housing Association has advised the Members Services' Officer that it has become part of the Catalyst Communities Housing Association. City Council representation is there no longer required on Ealing Family Housing Association.
- 1.4.5 that previously the Cherwell Housing Trust has requested that the Council's nominee serve for at least 2 years to ensure continuity and to maximise their knowledge and value to the Board. For the past two years Councillor Tanner has been the nominee to this Trust. Should the Board be minded to nominate another Councillor it is asked to bear the Trust's request in mind when agreeing this appointment.
- 1.4.6 that the Council appoints a representative as a Director on the Guided Transport Express for Oxfordshire. The last appointment was former Councillor Stan Taylor, who continued in this role while the Labour Group were the administration on the Council. With the change in administration Mr. Taylor has submitted his resignation as a Director to the Company Secretary.

Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is an extract of the minutes from the Highways and Traffic Committee of 4th June 1998 giving details of this project. Mr. Taylor advises that there is currently no activity but the company still remains in being and may be resurrected at some time. He advises that another Director be appointed as this will allow the City Council to keep in touch with what is happening and at least receive the annual accounts.

- 1.5 Councillors are reminded that when serving as a voting member there is a possibility they could incur some personal liability. If, for example, the body became insolvent and owed money to a third party, or took action which caused harm to a third party and was sued, the liability incurred by the body might fall upon the voting member. If this happened the Council could indemnify the councillor, but as a result would incur some financial cost. Councillors are advised to check the terms of any insurance carried by the outside body.
- 1.6 Councillors are also reminded that serving with an outside body in this way may lead to personal and prejudicial interests which need to be declared when carrying out business of Oxford City Council.
- 1.7 As City Council elections are now held only in alternate years the Committee is asked to consider whether in future, appointments to outside bodies should be agreed bi-ennially and be for a two year period.

2. Charitable Trusts

2.1 Vacancies currently exist on the following Charitable Trusts:-

the Non-Ecclesiastical Charities of St. Mary Magdalen as Mrs. Corinna Redman's appointment expired at the end of February, 2006;

the Oxford Leon Trust as two of the Trustees following the resignations of former Councillors Rick Muir and Claire Palmer, whose appointments were due to expire at the end of August, 2006. The third Trustee is former Councillor Ruth Beer and the Liberal Democrat Group is asked to confirm whether or not Ms Beer wishes to continue as a Trustee on this body;

2.2 The City of Oxford Charities have advised that Councillor Sellwood has resigned as a Trustee. It has also advised that Councillor Sargent has not attended a meeting for over 2 years and therefore no longer qualifies to act as a Trustee.

The Clerk to the Trustee has asked the City Council to nominate replacements for these two Councillors. Both replacement appointments will be until December, 2008.

In 2005 the Board was advised that vacancies would arise on the City of Oxford Charities when Mr. Jason Tomes' appointment expired at the end of December, 2005 and Maureen Christian's at the end of March, 2006. However, no nominees were forthcoming at that time. The Charity has advised that the Trustees would be agreeable to Mr. Tomes and Mrs. Christian being re-nominated if the Board was minded to do so. Both appointments would be for four years from the date their previous appointment expired.

2.3 With the exception of the City of Oxford Charities, Charitable trust appointments are for a four year period.

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Background papers: None



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