

To: City Executive Board Member for Corporate Governance and Strategic Partnerships

Date:

Item No:

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

## Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To agree nominations to outside and other bodies for the 2011/2012 Council year.

**Key decision?** No

**Policy Framework:** None

**Approved by:** Legal - Jeremy Thomas, Head of Law and Governance.  
Finance – Nigel Kennedy, Head of Finance

**Recommendation(s):** The Board Member is recommended to:

- (1) Make appointments to outside bodies as shown in Appendix 4;
- (2) Delete the following appointments on the grounds that the groups are inactive:-
  - (a) CCTV monitoring;
  - (b) CCTV inspections;
  - (c) Radiolink Steering Groups.
- (2) Appoint for 1 year, to the following groups; to be reviewed and deleted at the end of the year if there is no development, contact or demonstrable value to the Council within 12 months:-
  - (a) Alice Smith Trust and Sarah Nowell Educational Trust;
  - (b) Oxfordshire Ethnic Minorities Enterprise Unit;
  - (c) Florence Park Community Association;
  - (d) Oxford Asian Cultural Association;
  - (e) National Association of British Market Authorities;

**(3) Delete member involvement from the following body, on the grounds that the Council's interests are better served by officer involvement:-**

**(a) Oxfordshire Supporting People Commissioning Body.**

**(4) Make the amendments requested by the following outside bodies:-**

**(a) Oxford Homeless Pathways – reduce member representatives from 3 to 2;**

**(b) St Margaret's Institute Community Centre – cease the appointment of Council representative with immediate effect.**

## **1 Background**

The City Council currently nominates members to serve on 56 outside bodies and 11 charities. These range from local community associations and Policing boards to national organisations such as the Local Government Association General Assembly and the National Association of British Market Authorities.

The number of Councillor representatives appointed to each body and their roles vary. The majority sit on the committee of the body to which they have been appointed, with one or two acting in an advisory role or simply being invited to attend a meeting. All the Charity representatives are Trustees of the Charity.

The City Council has this year grant aided 15 of the outside bodies / charities to which we appoint. This totalled £716,532 and a breakdown is attached as **Appendix 1**

## **2 Councillor Involvement**

2.1 Members who had been appointed to a body for 2011/12 were sent a feedback form and asked to complete it, detailing:

- If they had been given notice of meetings by the organisation;
- If they had been involved in any special projects;
- Number of meetings to which they had been invited;
- Number of meetings they had managed to attend
- Any comments on the value of the group and its contribution towards the local community and the Council's corporate objectives.

2.2 Not every member returned his or her feedback form, but most did. A summary of their comments is attached as **Appendix 2**.

### **3 Contact from the Outside Bodies.**

3.1 Every outside body or charity to which the City Council appoints was sent a copy of the information that we hold on it, with a request that they update, confirm or correct this information as appropriate.

3.2 As a result of the feedback exercise, both with Councillors and with the outside bodies, there are questions about the existence of a number of outside bodies and the City Council's involvement with them.. These are as follows:-

- Alice Smith Trust and Sarah Nowell Educational Trust

The Councillor representative has questioned the value of continuing to appoint to this group. Although invited to meetings, she feels that the Council's influence is minimal. In view of this, does the Council wish to continue to appoint to the Trust?

- CCTV Monitoring Group/CCTV Inspections

Enquiries have revealed that there are no formal meetings or inspections of CCTV facilities. Instead, Members are very welcome to go and visit the CCTV HQ on a voluntary basis.

The Councillors concerned have reported back that the Management Committee is valuable, but that no inspections were made and that the CCTV Monitoring Group ceased in 2009. Therefore there seems little point in appointing to a non existent group and consideration should be given to deleting all except the CCTV Management Committee.

- Oxfordshire Ethnic Minorities Enterprise Unit

Unfortunately, the Councillor has not been contacted by this group. They do still exist however, and they returned their feedback form. The lack of contact may have been caused by the sad death of the former contact for the group and her subsequent replacement. This may resolve now that the new person is in post. It would be worthwhile trying to establish more active contact for 1 year.

- Florence Park Community Association

Councillor reports no contact since the previous Secretary left. Again, this may resolve itself when a new person is in place. It would be worthwhile trying to establish more active contact for 1 year

- Oxford Asian Cultural Association

Both Councillors appointed express concern about this group. There is a feeling that it needs encouragement to involve more people, especially women, and that it needs observation for a few years. After years of seeming inactivity, it has now held an AGM. It would be worthwhile trying to establish more active contact for 1 year. If matters do not improve, the Council might wish to consider deleting this group.

- National Association of British Market Authorities

This body has once again expressed disappointment that Oxford had not been represented at meetings during the past year. It hopes that someone would attend in the future. This has been a comment from it for the past few years. As a result, it is hard to judge whether or not the Council gains from its involvement.

- Oxfordshire Supporting People Commissioning Body

The Councillor appointed suggests that this is deleted from the list for member involvement and that the Council should continue to be involved via officers. The convention has been to send the Head of Housing to the meetings, and this has worked well.

- Radiolink Steering Group

The Councillor reports that he was contacted concerning a future meeting, but that a date was not set. This group has been fairly inactive for the past two years. If meetings are not set, then consideration should be given to deleting this group.

#### **4 Outside Bodies requesting variations.**

4.1 Oxford Homeless Pathways have requested that 2 appointments are made rather than the current 3. They would very much like to retain Councillor Val Smith as one of the representatives. Representatives can attend their meetings as an observer, or can apply to become a Trustee. If they do become a Trustee, the group would like them to remain for 3 years.

4.2 St Margaret's Institute Community Centre has requested that a Council appointment is no longer made. They state that the City Council appointed a member to their Management Committee between 2004 and 2008 when the City Council underwrote loan repayments for the Community Centre when it purchased the lease on its building. They have had the benefit of this appointment since then. The Management Team members are very grateful for the Council's support and help, but they want to recruit some hands on, active community volunteers to take on a variety of roles, and to do this, they wish to free up a number of places on the Management Committee. They point out that they do not receive financial support from the City Council, and that the loan it underwrote has been repaid in full.

On this basis, it is suggested that no further Council appointment is made to the St Margaret's Institute Management Committee, subject to your approval.

## **5 Appointments needing to be made.**

5.1 **Appendix 3** shows the Charity appointments that expire in 2012.

5.2 **Appendix 4** shows the current nominations to outside bodies from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups. Nominations were sought from the Green group but (at the time of writing) no response has been received.

## **6 Recommendations:-**

6.1 **The Board Member is recommended to:-**

**(3) Make appointments to outside bodies as shown in Appendix 4;**

**(4) Delete the following appointments on the grounds that the groups are inactive:-**

- (a) CCTV Monitoring;**
- (b) CCTV inspections**
- (c) Radiolink Steering Group.**

**(5) Appoint, for 1 year, to the following groups; to be reviewed and deleted at the end of the year if there is no development, contact or demonstrable value to the Council within 12 month;**

- (a) Alice Smith Trust and Sarah Nowell Educational Trust;**
- (b) Oxfordshire Ethnic Minorities Enterprise Unit;**
- (c) Florence Park Community Association;**
- (d) Oxford Asian Cultural Association;**
- (e) National Association of British Market Authorities**

**(6) Delete member involvement from the following body, on the grounds that the Council's interests are better served by officer involvement:-**

- (a) Oxfordshire Supporting People Commissioning Body**

**(7) Make the amendments requested by the following outside bodies:-**

- (a) Oxford Homeless Pathways – reduce member representatives from 3 to 2;**
- (b) St Margaret's Institute Community Centre – cease the appointment of Council representative with immediate effect.**

## **7 Level of Risk**

7.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken and the risk register is attached at **Appendix 5**. All risks have been mitigated to an acceptable level.

**Name and contact details of author:-**

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**List of background papers:** None

**Version number:** 1