

To: City Executive Board

Date: 3 July 2014

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: Appointment to Outside Bodies 2014/2015

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To agree nominations to outside and other bodies for the 2014/2015 Council Year.

Key decision: No

Executive lead member: Cllr Bob Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy, Economic Development and Planning

Policy Framework: None

Recommendations: The City Executive Board:

1. Reduce Council representation on the Oxford Leon Trust to two (when representation comes up for renewal).
2. Delete the following appointments because the groups are no longer in existence:-
 - Wood Farm Community Association
 - LGA Urban Commission
3. Remove Council representation from the Oxfordshire Building Trust as it is no longer needed.
4. Do not re-appoint to the Forest of Oxford until further work can be done to determine whether they are still operating.
5. Make appointments to outside bodies as shown in **Appendix 3**.

Appendices:-

Appendix 1 – Council grants breakdown 2014/15

Appendix 2 – Member comments on bodies served on in 2013/14

Appendix 3 – Nominations to outside bodies for 2014/15

Introduction

1. The Council has in total 114 representatives on 59 outside bodies and 10 charities. The majority of representatives are either current members or former members of the City Council. Outside bodies range from local community associations to national organisations such as the Local Government Association General Assembly.
2. The majority of Council representatives 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 meetings. All the charity representatives are trustees of the charity.
3. Each year;-
 - Outside bodies are asked to review the information that we hold on them and outline their expectations from councillor involvement. Many bodies have replied favourably to Council involvement, welcoming the knowledge and insight that Councillors are able to offer, in particular around council procedures and policies.
 - Council representatives are asked to provide feedback on the bodies to which they have been appointed so that the Council can monitor progress, and determine whether representation on a body is a good investment of councillors' time.
4. In 2014/15, the Council is giving grants totalling £563,084 to 10 of the outside bodies and charities to which we appoint representatives. In total the Council is giving £972,159 in grants to 42 bodies. A breakdown is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Feedback from Councillors and Outside Bodies 2013/14

5. All Council representatives appointed to a body for 2013/14 were asked to comment on the value of the body, its contribution towards the local community and the Council's Corporate Objectives and whether they felt it was valuable having Council representation on the body. Feedback forms were sent to all representatives appointed to outside bodies, 14 of 37 representatives returned the form.
6. A summary of members' comments is attached as **Appendix 2**. Most members supported the work their body was doing in the community, and were in favour of having Council representation on the body. There were are few concerns raised which are highlighted below:
7. The two representatives for the East Oxford Community Association (EOCA) both raised significant concerns about the worsening relationship between the Council and the association. Both Members

have requested “an urgent review of the status of the management provided by the trustees of the centre ... be undertaken ... to ensure that the centre properly serves the community.”

8. East Oxford Community Association was noted last year as being a cause for concern. The representatives’ feedback has been reported to the Communities and Neighbourhood Team, who are aware of the current situation and are in regular contact with ward councillors on this matter. An action plan with EOCA has been agreed and the team is working with EOCA on their governance and management of the Centre.
9. The representative on the Oxfordshire Building Trust queried the relevance of having representation on the body as “funds are drying up for building project and it is just about worth attending half of the meetings”. The Board may want to consider not re-appointing to this body.
10. One of the representatives on the Forest of Oxford Steering Group reported that there had been little activity on this body and requested that a review be done to determine what the steering group is meant to do. Forest of Oxford has not made any contact with Council officers over the last few years and we are unsure whether the group is still operating. The Board may want to consider not re-appointing to this body until further work can be done to determine whether they are still operating.

Feedback from Outside Bodies

11. The spokesperson for the Leon Trust didn’t realise they had three council representatives. Councillor feedback has been received from one representative; with another not realising they were appointed to the body. It would be quite possible to reduce the number to two representatives without harming the body’s access to Council expertise.

Inactive Groups

12. Over the year, a couple of bodies have disbanded and no longer require representation, they are:
 - Wood Farm Community Association
 - LGA Urban Commission
13. The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership also disbanded but has been replaced with the Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership.

Appointments to be made

14. **Appendix 3** shows the current nominations to outside bodies from the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green groups. The Board is asked to appoint representative(s) for each body from the list of nominees.

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Environmental Impact

None

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