

**To:** City Executive Board

**Date:** 2 April 2015

**Report of:** Head of Law and Governance

**Title of Report:** Appointmentsto Outside Bodies2015/16

## Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To agree nominations to outside and other bodies for the 2015/2016 Council Year.

**Key decision:** No

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

**Policy Framework:** None

**Recommendations:** That the City Executive Board:

1. Does not re-appoint to the Mortimer Hall Management Committee, Forest of Oxford and the Susan Kidd Charity
2. Does not re-appoint to the Oxfordshire Partnershipbecause the group is now less relevant to city issues.
3. Reduce the number of representatives on the Alice Smith Trust and Sarah Nowell Educational Foundation to one.
4. Approve appointments to outside bodies as shown in Appendix 3.
5. Agree thatany appointments which need to be made during the course of the Council year 2015/16 shall be made by the Leader of the Council in consultation with other Group Leaders.
6. Note that guidance for representatives on Outside Bodies will be provided by theHead of Law and Governance.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Council Grants breakdown 2015/16

Appendix 2 – Member comments on bodies served on in 2014/15

Appendix 3 – Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2015/16

Appendix 4 – Risk assessment

## **Background**

1. The Council has representatives on 55 outside bodies and 11 charities. These range from local community associations to national organisations such as the Local Government Association General Assembly. The majority of representatives are either current members or former members of the City Council.
2. Most of Council's representatives sit on the committee of the body to which they have been appointed, with many acting in a non-voting advisory role or simply being invited to attend meetings. All the charity representatives are trustees of the respective charities.
3. Each year;-
  - Outside bodies are asked to review the information they provide to us 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 2015/16, the Council gave grants totalling £590,451 to 12 of the outside bodies / charities to which we appoint representatives. In total the Council gave £980,443 in grants to 43 organisations. A breakdown is attached as **Appendix 1**.
5. On occasions a change in representation is required during the year which can only be facilitated through the City Executive Board. The Board is asked to agree that in future these in year changes are delegated to the Leader of the Council in consultation with other group leaders. This will enable the Council to be more responsive to issues as they arise.
6. New guidance to assist Council representatives on outside bodies will be provided to all representatives upon appointment.

## **Feedback from Councillors and Outside Bodies 2014**

7. All council representatives appointed to a body for 2014/15 were asked to comment on the organisations contribution to the local community and the Council's Corporate Objectives and whether they felt it was valuable having Council representation on the body. 53 out of 110 feedback forms were returned.
8. A summary of representatives' comments is attached as **Appendix 2**. Most supported the work their body was doing in the community, and were in favour of having Council representation on the body.

#### **Update on concerns raised in 2014**

9. East Oxford Community Association

Last year, concerns were raised about the management of the East Oxford Community Association (EOCA). The Communities and Neighbourhood (CAN) team were involved in developing an action plan for the governance and management of the centre, and subsequently the association was given notice to quit the centre by 1 September 2015. From that time, the City Council will manage the building directly.

10. Forest of Oxford

For several years officers have not managed to make contact with the Forest of Oxford. In 2014, the Board resolved "Not to re-appoint to the Forest of Oxford until Cllrs Lygo and Fooks determine whether it is still operating." Cllr Fooks and Lygo have not received any notification, but Cllr Pressel has been informed that although the group is still active, it does all its correspondence by email and does not require Council representation. It is recommended that the Board does not re-appoint to this body.

#### **Councillors Feedback 2015:**

11. Northway Community Association

Concern has been raised about the management of the Northway Community Association. The Council representative on the Northway Community Association considers that it is not properly catering for the needs of the community and has no strategy and limited accountability. Greensquare has begun the new building (Jan 2015) and will supplement the efforts of our CAN team to develop the association to better meet the needs of the community.

12. CAN have been working with Greensquare to support Northway Community Association over the last 12 months. As Greensquare will be their new landlord, they have taken the lead working with them with regards to managing the new facility currently under construction, and will be responsible for ensuring that the association meet the performance measures that the City Council will agree with Greensquare from December 2015.

13. Neither Council representative on Northway Community Association have received notice or been invited to any meetings throughout the year and

the body has not contacted officers supporting outside body nominations. It is recommended that the Board re-appoint representatives to this body and that those representatives continue to work closely with the CAN team and Greensquare to improve the situation.

14. Mortimer Hall Management Committee

Neither Council representative has been notified or attended any meetings of this body. The body is responsible for the upkeep of Mortimer Hall for the use of the local community. It is recommended that the Board does not re-appoint to this body.

15. Susan Kidd Charity

Cllr Upton, council representative on the Susan Kidd charity commented that she did not feel there was value in having councillor representation on this charity. The charity meets annually to disperse a small amount of grant money to assist people with play group fees. The Council currently has two representatives on this body, Cllr Upton and Catherine Hilliard. Catherine Hilliard was appointed as secretary of this body in November 2014. It is recommended that the Board does not re-appoint to this charity, which will mean that Catherine Hilliard will continue her role on the charity but not as a Council representative.

**Feedback from Outside Bodies:**

16. The Alice Smith Trust and Sarah Nowell Educational Foundation currently has two Council representatives but has requested only one in the future. The charity “provides education support for young people under the age of 25 and assistance to those in need in Cowley, Iffley, Blackbird Leys and Littlemore”.

**Inactive bodies**

17. The Oxfordshire Partnerships body has disbanded and no longer requires representation.

**Financial, Legal or Environmental Implications**

18. This report has no financial, legal or environmental implications for the Council.

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

Name Sarah Claridge  
Job title: Committee and Member Services Officer  
Service Area: Law and Governance  
Tel: 01865 252402 e-mail: sclaridge@oxford.gov.uk

**List of background papers:** None