

To: Cabinet
Date: 12 June 2019
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Appointments to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations 2019/20

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To agree appointments to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations for the 2019/20 Council Year.
Key decision:	No
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Partnerships
Corporate Priority:	Strong and Active Communities
Policy Framework:	N/A
Recommendations: That the Cabinet resolves to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve appointments to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations as shown in Appendices 1A – 1D; and note the appointments to partnerships as detailed in Appendix 1E; 2. Note the guidance for appointees as detailed in Appendix 2; 3. Agree to add the Climate Alliance and the Oxfordshire Building Trust to the list of charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations as detailed at paragraph 14 of the report; and 4. Delegate authority to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and where appropriate with other group leaders, to make any changes to appointments to Outside Bodies as may be required during the course of the Council year 2019/20. 	

Appendices	
Appendix 1A - E	List of nominations to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations for 2019/20 (with 2018/19 appointments listed for reference).
Appendix 2	Guidance Note for Members appointed to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations.

Introduction

1. The Council currently has representatives on a total of 56 outside bodies (17 community associations, 10 charities, 8 trusts and 21 other organisations). These are detailed in Appendices 1A – 1D. Most of Council's representatives sit on the committee of the organisation to which they have been appointed, with many acting in a non-voting advisory role or simply being invited to attend meetings as an observer. Councillors who have been appointed to charities and trusts serve as Trustees on those bodies.
2. The Council also has representatives on 10 partnerships (see Appendix 1E for details) but the Cabinet is only asked to make appointments to 3 of these partnerships. In the case of the remaining partnerships the appointments are either made by the individual partnership or determined by virtue of a councillor's position as a portfolio holder on the City Council's Cabinet.
3. Guidance to assist Council representatives on these organisations is provided upon appointment. This ensures that all appointees understand their role and responsibilities in representing the Council on the organisation. A copy of the guidance (updated in 2018) is attached at Appendix 2.
4. The list of outside bodies and the appointment of representatives to those organisations is a decision for the Leader of the Council, who chooses to seek Cabinet agreement to the nominations. This is done annually in June.
5. Proposed changes to the list of outside bodies will be reported to the Cabinet as required during the year. Since 2017 the authority to approve any change to the representation on an individual organisation has been delegated to the Head of Law and Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and where appropriate with other group leaders. It is recommended that, in future, this delegation is restated annually to provide for good governance and clear decision making.
6. Details of the individual grants awarded by Council to the charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations to which it appoints representatives are included in Appendices 1A – 1E of this report.

Categories for appointments to outside bodies

7. The list of organisations to which the Council makes appointments has evolved over time. The justification for the inclusion of many of the organisations on the list is self-evident but in some cases the reasons for the Council to continue to appoint to an organisation is less obvious.
8. To address this the following categories are used to provide some rigour to the decision making underpinning the Council appointments to outside bodies:

A.	Appointments to organisations that have a significant impact on the achievement of any of the Council's corporate policy objectives and service priorities and/or organisations who receive funding from the Council
B.	Appointments to organisations with established historical links to the local community, the city of Oxford or the City Council on which representation is desirable and should be maintained as a matter of local goodwill and for as long as

	nominations are forthcoming from members
C.	Appointments which will allow the Council to influence policy at a national or regional level
D.	Appointments which are a statutory requirement and/or to a partnership

Annual Review - feedback from Councillors and Outside Bodies 2018/19

9. All Council representatives 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 that organisation. The majority of the representatives returned feedback forms confirming that Council representation should continue.
10. As in previous years the organisations were invited to comment on the contribution made by the Council's representative. Although response rates remain low the majority of the comments received were positive and welcomed the contribution and commitment of the Council representatives.
11. The feedback from Council representatives and the organisations was reviewed by the Leader of the Council and used to inform the recommendations in this report.
12. Where any concerns were raised, for example non-attendance at meetings, these have been addressed with the representative or organisation concerned and the outcomes are reflected in the recommendations on future appointments.

Proposed appointments and changes to representation in 2019/20

13. Appendices 1A – 1D set out the proposed nominations to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations for 2019/20. There are fewer individual nominations this year as many of the representatives on the charities and trusts are part way through their four year term to coincide with their elected term of office.
14. Following consideration of the feedback from councillors and organisations the Leader of the Council has proposed the following specific changes to the list of organisations for 2019/20:

Outside Body	Decision
Climate Alliance https://www.climatealliance.org/home.html	Oxford has been a member of the Climate Alliance since 2015 and Councillor John Tanner has been an active participant. There is an annual fee associated with membership (€1018.87 for 2018/19). Due to an oversight the organisation has not previously been included on the list of Outside Bodies.
Oxfordshire Building Trust - was set up in 1981 and has restored or helped restore a number of historic buildings. It also offers grant aid and advice, and campaigns on heritage and conservation	The Trust's constitution requires 8 members of the Board to be appointed for a 3 year term (3 appointees from the County Council and 1 from the City and each District

<p>issues. http://www.oxfordshirebuildingtrust.co.uk/</p>	<p>Council). In 2014 the City Council decided, on the advice of the then representative not to re-appoint to this organisation as “funds were drying up”. The Trust approached the Council in early 2019 seeking a closer involvement at both the member and officer level. The Portfolio Holder, Planning and Transport and the Acting Head of Planning Services believe that this is an opportunity for the Council to re-establish links with a local organisation and which will allow the Council to influence policy at a regional level (Category C).</p>
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Legal and Financial issues

15. Representation on outside organisations presents legal implications for the Council if the roles and responsibilities of those involved are not fully defined. Council representatives are provided with detailed written guidance on their roles and responsibilities (Appendix 2).
16. The appointments proposed in this report have no direct financial implications for the Council.

Level of risk

17. Representation on outside organisations should result in benefit to both the Council and the organisation concerned. There is a risk that such benefit may be lost to either or both parties if representation is withdrawn or inadequately resourced or briefed.

Equalities impact

18. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. The Council seeks to appoint nominees that represent as far as possible the diverse nature of the Outside Bodies and the communities that they serve.

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