

To: Cabinet
Date: 24 June 2020
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Appointments to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations 2020/21

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To agree appointments to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations for the 2020/21 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
Recommendation(s): 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 remove Council of Ruskin College from the list of charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations as detailed in the report. 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 2020/21. 	

Appendices	
Appendix 1A - E	List of nominations to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations for 2020/21 (with 2019/20 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 55 outside bodies (17 community associations, 10 charities, 8 trusts and 20 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 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. This delegation is restated annually to provide for good governance and clear decision making.

Categories for appointments to outside bodies

6. 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.
7. 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

Proposed appointments and changes to representation in 2020/21

8. Appendices 1A – 1D set out the proposed nominations to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations for 2020/21. 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.
9. The Leader of the Council has proposed the following specific changes to the list of organisations for 2020/21:

Outside Body	Decision
Council of Ruskin College	Remove: In May 2019 Ruskin College adopted a new governing instrument which dissolved the Council of Ruskin and removed the requirement for representatives from Oxford City Council.

Legal and Financial issues

10. 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).
11. The appointments proposed in this report have no direct financial implications for the Council.

Level of risk

12. 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

13. 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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