



Cabinet

5 June 2024

Item
8(ii)

Report of	Democratic Services Manager	Author	Richard Clifford ☎ 507832
Title	Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups		
Wards affected	All		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes appointments to a number of external organisations and Council groups and also provides a number of reports about the work undertaken by appointees to external organisations and Council groups in 2023-24.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The representatives to the various external organisations and Council groups listed in Appendix A be appointed for the 2024-25 municipal year, with such appointments to cease if representatives cease to be members of the Council during the municipal year. At the point of publication a handful of appointments remain to be nominated and an updated Appendix A will be circulated in advance of the Cabinet meeting.
- 2.2 To authorise the Leader of the Council to make a determination, where a nomination is deemed to be in dispute, if a vacancy occurs or if an appointment needs to be made to a new organisation during the course of the municipal year.
- 2.3 To appoint Councillor King as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.
- 2.4 To appoint Councillor Sommers as the Council's Equality Diversity and Inclusion Champion.
- 2.5 To note the reports about the work undertaken by appointees to external organisations in 2023-24, as set out in Appendix B.

3. Reason for Recommended Decisions

- 3.1 It is important for the Council to continue to make formal appointments to certain organisations and council groups such as those with statutory functions, our key strategic and community partners and groups with joint working arrangements. These groups have been identified in Appendix A.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed. It is proposed to authorise the Leader of the Council to make a determination where a nomination is deemed to be in dispute or if an appointment needs to be made if a vacancy occurs or an appointment needs to be made to a new organisation in the course of the municipal year.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The appointments to the Council 's commercial companies, Colchester Borough Homes and Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd, will now be made through a separate process.
- 5.2 In accordance with the agreed procedure for making appointments to external organisations and council groups, if any seat or vote allocation remains in dispute by the after the appointments have been made by Cabinet, the Leader of the Council can determine the matter.
- 5.3 The Council appoints an Armed Forces Champion whose role is to promote issues relating to the armed force within the Council and to help liaise with the Garrison. It is proposed to appoint Cllr King as Armed Forces Champion.
- 5.4 At its meeting on 19 December 2023, the Cabinet accepted a recommendation from the Policy Panel that consideration be given to the appointment of a Councillor Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion. This arose out of a review by the Panel of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy in November 2023. It is recommended that Councillor Sommers be appointed as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion, as these issues fall within her portfolio.
- 5.5 As a matter of good governance the Council's representatives on outside bodies and Council groups are asked to report on the work they have undertaken as the Council's representative outside body, and the work of the body and the major issues that have been faced in the last municipal year. This should help Cabinet take a value on the appointment. Information about the work of the Council's representatives on a number of the external organisations and Council groups in the 2023-24 municipal year is attached at Appendix B.
- 5.6 The work of some of the organisations to which appointments are made are also reviewed and scrutinised through the work of the Council's Committees and Panels. The work of the Council's commercial companies is reported to the Governance and Audit Committee as the Shareholder Committee of the Council. The Member Development Group also reports annually to Cabinet and a report on their work is included elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Members are entitled to claim travel allowance in respect of attendance at meetings of the external organisations and Council groups to which they have been appointed.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The particular contribution that each of the external organisations and Council groups makes towards the aims of the Strategic Plan is indicated in in Appendix A.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 Members appointed as representatives will be notified accordingly. Confirmation of appointments will be sent to the relevant external organisation and to officer contacts for the various Council groups.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for Equality and Diversity from these appointments and as such a full EQIA has not been deemed necessary. However, the council and all representatives, both officers and members, will encourage and in some cases insist that

our partners have the same approach to equality and diversity as we do and ensure that this is implicit within their policies and procedures.

10. Risk Management Implications

10.1 Councillors fulfilling external and partnership appointments need to have regard to the information and advice contained within the 'Guidance for Members on Outside Bodies.

11. Health, Well-being and Community Safety, Environmental and Sustainability and Health and Safety Implications

11.1 No direct implications, however the appointments to outside bodies listed within this report enable the Council to better address issues within these areas.

Appendices

Appendix A – Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups 2024-25

Appendix B – Reports on Appointments to External Organisations and Council Groups 2023-2024