

TO: COUNCIL
17 JULY 2019

APPOINTMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS
Executive Director of Delivery – Democratic and Registration Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's agreement to the establishment of a Boundary Review working group and the appointment of Members to sit on it, plus changes to appointments to external organisations since Annual Council on 22 May 2019.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That a cross party Boundary Review Group of seven members (5:1:1) is established to support the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review, with the terms of reference as set out in paragraph 5 of this report, and that Members are appointed to it in accordance with Members' wishes.**
- 2.2 **That Cllr Dr Barnard replaces Cllr Heydon as the Council's representative on Berkshire Maestros.**
- 2.3 **That the substitute vacancy is filled on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (Joint Committee) in accordance with Conservative Group wishes.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To agree appointments to a number of bodies.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Boundary Review Group

- 5.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking an electoral review of the Council. Members will be briefed on the process by the LGBCE earlier on the agenda at this Council meeting. The initial task will be for the Council to develop thoughts on the proposed council size. This provides the opportunity to reflect on the role and contribution of elected Members in modern local governance. The second stage of the review will look at future warding patterns.
- 5.2 It is proposed that a cross party working group of Members is established to work with officers to assist in both stages of the review. At least three of the seven Members should be present at working group meetings. The working group will meet periodically as required within the agreed timescales.
- 5.3 The terms of reference of the working group will be:
- To ensure full Member involvement in, and support to, the electoral review process.
 - To consider options on the future size of the Council i.e. the number of elected councillors, taking into account governance arrangements, scrutiny and

regulatory functions and councillors' representational roles; and to formulate draft recommendations on Council size for consideration by Council.

- To support officers in the provision of information required by the LGBCE and the drafting of the Electoral Review document.
- To recommend a pattern of wards to Council for submission to the LGBCE that demonstrates how the statutory criteria set by the LGBCE have been met.

- 5.4 The Council size proposals must be submitted to the LGBCE by 15 November 2019. This would complete stage one of the electoral review.
- 5.5 The Council's recommendations on warding patterns must be submitted by 16 March 2020. The LGBCE will consider all the responses received and publish Draft Recommendations on 2 June 2020 at which point a second phase of consultation will run until 10 August 2020. The working group may need to meet during this period to present comments on the Draft Recommendations. The LGBCE will publish the Final Recommendations on the new ward patterns in November 2020.
- 5.6 It is likely that special Council meetings will be required to agree the Council's response at both stages of the review as the timescales do not easily fit with the current cycle of meetings.

Berkshire Maestros

- 5.7 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 22 May 2019 Cllr Heydon was appointed as the Council's representative on Berkshire Maestros. Council is now asked to agree that Cllr Dr Barnard replaces Cllr Heydon.
- 5.8 Councillors are nominated to voluntary sector organisations as representatives in a non-management capacity with no role in the governance of the organisation. Such roles are limited to Councillors acting as conduits for communication between the Council and the organisation or as observers at the organisation's meetings. Where a Councillor is nominated as a representative, they may not subsequently accept a role on the organisation's board as a Trustee/Director or in any other management capacity such as Treasurer.

Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (Joint Committee)

- 5.9 At the Annual Meeting of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, on 21 June 2019 the membership rules of the Panel were changed to enable all 18 Thames Valley Local Authorities to appoint a named substitute to the Panel.
- 5.10 This appointed substitute would receive notification of meetings and agendas, and could attend meetings of the Panel, in the absence of the appointed Member from the Council.
- 5.11 The Council has already appointed Councillor Harrison, Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection as the Council's representative. A nomination is now sought from the Conservative Group for a representative to be appointed as a named substitute.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Nothing to add to the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no additional revenue implications arising from the above recommendations.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not relevant to this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Not relevant to this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Conservative Group, Labour Group and Liberal Democratic Councillor.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Discussion

Representations Received

- 8.3 Outcome of discussions reflected in this report.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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