



**Rochford District
Council**

REPORT TITLE:	Review of the Council's Outside Bodies
REPORT OF:	Outside Bodies Task & Finish Group

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide an update on the review of the Council's outside bodies.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 A Task and Finish Group was set up on 5 July comprising Cllrs Mrs J E McPherson, R Milne and Mrs S J Page and an initial meeting was held. Following this meeting, Cllr Mrs J E McPherson met with officers and a scoping document was completed to provide a focus for the work. This was approved by the Committee on 13 September 2023.

1.2 The Council currently appoints Members to the following outside bodies:-

- South Essex Councils (SEC)
- Bradwell B Community Forum
- Broadwell Local Community Liaison Council
- Community Safety Partnership Steering Group
- Crouch Harbour Authority
- East of England Local Government Association
- Essex Countywide Traveller Unit
- Essex Flood Partnership Board

- Essex Heritage Trust
- Essex Leaders and Chief Executives Group
- Essex Police & Crime Panel
- Essex Waste Partnership Board
- Hockley Community Centre Association
- London Southend Airport Consultative Committee
- Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (Board of Governors)
- NACRO N.C.E Ltd
- Partnership Panel
- Rayleigh & Rochford Association of Voluntary Services
- Rayleigh Grange Community Association Governing Body
- Rayleigh Mount Local Committee
- River Crouch Coastal Community Team Steering Group
- Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils
- Sanctuary in Rochford Committee
- South Essex Children's Partnership Board
- South Essex Parking Partnership
- Thames Estuary Growth Board

1.3 There has not been a review conducted of outside bodies since that conducted by the Review Committee in February 2011 and there have been few reports included in the Members' Bulletin relating to outside body activity in recent years. It's therefore not possible to ascertain whether the Council is represented on the right mix of outside bodies and whether appointments to the current outside bodies listed above add any value to the Rochford District.

2.0 PROGRESS UPDATE

- 2.1 A survey has been sent out to all Members asking for details of how frequently they have attended outside body meetings and asking for feedback on any outside bodies that they are appointed to/have been appointed to previously in terms of how these have been beneficial to the District and asking for details of any outside bodies that Members may have attended as part of, for example, current Lead Member or former Portfolio Holder, responsibilities.
- 2.2 Officers are in the process of contacting other Essex Local Authorities in order to establish what outside bodies other authorities appoint representatives to for the Task & Finish Group to establish if it would be beneficial for this Council to appoint to any of them.
- 2.3 Officers are also asking other Essex Authorities how their Member representatives to outside bodies report back to the Council on outside body activity.

- 2.4 Following the decision made at Annual Council on 23 May 2023 to adopt the committee system of governance with effect from the next municipal year, the Constitution Working Group has been undertaking work on a proposed Committee structure with terms of reference for the proposed new committees and a report will go to Council on 14 December asking for approval of the proposed new committee structure. The terms of reference of the committees could include a requirement for reporting on outside body activity to the relevant committees. In addition, there could be a requirement for regular, annual reviews of outside bodies to the new Scrutiny & Performance Committee.
- 2.5 If the proposed new committee structure is agreed by Council on 14 December any recommendations arising out of this review of outside bodies will go to the first meetings of the relevant new committees in the next municipal year.
- 2.6 It is anticipated that a final report from the Task & Finish Group will come to the Committee on 1 February.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	28 June 2023
Annual Council	17 May 2022
Annual Council	18 May 2021
Annual Council	9 July 2020