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## **OUTSIDE BODY REVIEW**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the findings of the Review of Outside Bodies for consideration.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 9 July 2002, the Policy & Finance Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative & Member Services on whether the number of outside bodies on which the Council has representatives should be reviewed (Minute 314/02). The Committee resolved:-

- (1) That a review of Outside Bodies be undertaken, the following criteria to be used:-
- Has the Council given strong financial support to the outside body?
  - Does the body either provide a direct service for the Council Tax-payers or are the objectives of the Body closely aligned with the Council's direct interests?
  - Is it essential for the Council to be involved in the policy making or management of the outside Body?
  - Can the Body be considered to be a part of the Local Government process?
- (2) That a report be brought back to a future meeting detailing the findings of the review.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Since the above decision, Officers have approached all outside bodies on which the Council has appointees/those bodies seeking appointments (58 bodies in total) to ascertain their position in the context of the review criteria. Each body has been asked to provide up to date information on their details as held at the office, and to respond specifically to each of the four criteria.
- 3.2 The responses are set out in schedule form at Appendix 1. The schedule has been arranged in a format which identifies apparent fit with the criteria in blocks of descending order, with the closest fit first. Within each block bodies have been placed in alphabetical order. The format is for guidance purposes and is not intended as a value judgement as such.

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- 3.3 The Head of Financial Services has reviewed the observations made by each body to Question 1. The figures in brackets in the Question 1 column represent revenue support given to the bodies by the Council for 2002/03.
- 3.4 The first column of the schedule includes information on the number of appointees to each body and where there are still vacancies. The Committee may wish to recommend to Council that any vacancies which remain following this review are filled.
- 3.5 During report compilation it has been established that:
- The Castle Point Borough Council European Liaison Committee and the Castle Point (Southend-on-Sea and District) Post and Telecommunications Advisory Committee are no longer in operation.
  - The Great Eastern Rail Forum has been renamed the Essex Strategic Rail Group and now requires one Member appointee (it was two).
  - Despite the impending abolition of Community Health Councils (current indications are that they will remain in place until March 2003), the Southend District Community Health Council would like three Council appointees.
  - A merger of 'ROOM' The National Council for Housing and Planning with the Royal Town Planning Institute is underway. It is understood that three new associations will be formed (one specifically for elected Members). However, formal notification is yet to be received.

These factors are reflected in Appendix 1.

#### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A reduction in the number of outside bodies could eventually reduce budget savings. All travel and subsistence claims are currently paid from the existing budget.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers whether there should be any adjustments to the number of outside bodies on which appointments are made/whether any resultant vacancies should be filled and recommends to Full Council accordingly.

Sarah Fowler

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**Background Papers:**

Questionnaire responses from outside bodies.

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