



**Rochford District  
Council**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Appointments to Outside Bodies</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Steve Summers, Strategic Director (Monitoring Officer)</b>

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

With partnership and community working a key element in delivering the district's priorities, for many years Rochford District Council has made appointments to various outside bodies.

At its annual meeting of 21 May 2024, Council delegated authority to several of its committees to make appointments to outside bodies. This report sets out the appointments to be made by the Communities, Wellbeing and Housing Committee.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1** To agree the appointments to the outside bodies as set out at Appendix A.
- R2** To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to authorise the appointments of nominated representatives which arise as a result of an in-year vacancy.

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The proposed appointees have been nominated by the leaders of the political groups represented on the Council.
- 1.2 The recommended appointments are attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3 Where an in-year vacancy arises through a member no longer being able to serve on the outside body, it is recommended that a delegation be granted to the Monitoring Officer to fill such a vacancy.

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Outside bodies are external organisations, with independent governance structures, whose activities and objectives are relevant to, or align with, those of the council to the extent that the organisation has requested that the council appoint a representative.
- 2.2 Such appointments also allow the council to support and promote the work of local organisations in Rochford District that provide a range of effective services as well as promoting greater economic growth, sustainability, local resilience and inclusivity in the borough.
- 2.3 Acting as a link between the council’s activities and those of the organisation, the appointee may adopt several roles depending on the need of the organisation, including board/committee member, director, trustee or critical friend. The appointment made by the council can be a councillor, officer or other representative.
- 2.4 Given such appointments are often one of several roles an individual may hold, guidance and support from council officers, including the Monitoring Officer where questions of conflicts of interest arise, is provided.
- 2.5 Unlike most local authority committees, there is no requirement for appointments to outside bodies to be made on a proportionate basis to reflect the political make-up of the Council. The proposed appointments are recommended on nominations received from the political groups represented on the Council and the roles individual members hold within the council.

## **3.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 The council is not generally obliged to make appointments to outside bodies, and so could choose not to do so. However, it is clear from discussions that the outside bodies themselves, the individuals appointed to them, and the council more widely finds value in these appointments, and so appointments are recommended for the coming year.
- 3.2 This value notwithstanding, there is no requirement for an individual councillor to serve on an outside body. Although appointees are both expected and encouraged to serve their full term of appointment, in-year changes may occur and have been accounted for in the recommended delegation to the Monitoring Officer to fill such vacancies (R2, explained further in Section 1 – Reasons for Recommendation).

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#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 4.1 As the appointments are not a legal requirement and no appointments are made where the appointment carries a risk that insolvency of the body would render the appointee debarred from office (e.g., a limited company directorship), the material risk to the council is very low. There may be a moderate reputational risk to the council should it choose not to make appointments to outside bodies or should an outside body with council-appointed representatives fail in its objectives.

#### **5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Prior to reporting to the annual meeting of Council (21 May 2024), all outside bodies to which appointments had been made in the 2023-24 municipal year were contacted and asked to review their appointments. These groups' feedback was accounted for in the report presented to Council and have informed this subsequent report. Although this light-touch review provided helpful information in proposing this year's appointments, it is intended to undertake a full review of outside bodies ahead of the 2025-26 municipal year to ensure the appointments are proportionate, support the objectives of both the council and the bodies themselves, and allow for effective communication between the council and the outside body.
- 5.2 As outlined at Section 1 – Reasons for Recommendations – the proposals contained within this paper have been consulted on with the political groups represented on the Council.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Appointees who are either councillors or senior officers of the council will need to consider declaring these positions as related parties.

#### **7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 It is important for councillors appointed to outside bodies to be clear about the nature of the appointment, including whether they have a decision-making role or not. Different duties and responsibilities apply depending on the councillor's role on the outside body and councillors need to be aware of the potential for conflicts of interest to arise.

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**8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

**8.1** There are no material equalities implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

**9.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

**9.1** There are no material equalities implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Recommended appointments

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council (annual meeting)	21 May 2024
Council (annual meeting)	23 May 2023
Council (annual meeting)	17 May 2022
Council (annual meeting)	18 May 2021