

OUTSIDE BODY REVIEW (Minute 259/00)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members are invited to consider whether the number of Outside Bodies, on which this Authority serves, should be reviewed. Appointments to Outside Bodies is a discretionary function.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall, at meetings of Council and Finance and General Purposes last year, appointments were made to Outside Bodies. These appointments were made for the Municipal years 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 given that there would be no District Council elections in 2001. Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of the Outside Bodies.
- 2.2 Historically appointments to Outside Bodies have been made on a year on year basis, at the request of a body, without question as to whether representation on the Body would enhance or improve the service offered by this Authority to Council Tax payers.
- 2.3 In drafting the original report last year, work was undertaken by officers to ascertain the purpose of Outside Bodies and the timing of their meetings, with a view to providing Members with a more balanced view of the possible commitment made by Members on appointment.
- 2.4 At Council on 25 July, all Outside Bodies were appointed to, with the exception of those requiring subscription. At the time of drafting this report there are 57 Outside Bodies to which this Authority nominates 1 or more Councillors.
- 2.5 It is suggested that Members may wish to review the number of Outside Bodies, on which this Authority is represented. Though not exhaustive, reasons include: -
- There could be a conflict of interest between the Membership of an Outside Body and the Council, particularly where a Member is acting as a trustee, as the first duty of the Member would be to the Trust.
 - With the abolition of attendance allowances, Members will only be able to claim travel and subsistence from the Authority (in cases where these are not paid by the Outside Body). At the present time, the only appointments attracting an attendance allowance are

those relating to the Association of Essex Authorities (AEA) and the Local Government Association (LGA)

- With meetings of Outside Bodies falling at various times of day there can be a clash with District Council Meetings
- Given the Modernising Agenda, it is anticipated that Members will spend more time working in partnership with other organisations, listening and working with the Community etc.

3 SUGGESTED REVIEW CRITERIA

3.1 The following are possible Criteria which could be used to identify whether an Outside Body should have a representative from this Authority serving on it: -

- 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?

3.2 It is suggested that as part of any review, the mechanisms for reporting back into the Council, by Members, should also be examined.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A reduction in the number of Outside Bodies could potentially produce Budget savings. All claims are currently paid from existing budget.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) whether a review of Outside bodies should be undertaken
- (2) the criteria to be used should (1) above be agreed

- (3) That a report be brought back to a future meeting detailing the findings of the review (HAMS)

Andrew Smith

Head of Administrative and Member Services

Background Papers:

Returns from Outside Bodies relating to nominations for 2000-2002

For further information please contact Angus Wyatt on:-

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APPENDIX 1

OUTSIDE BODIES

Association of Essex Authorities

**Association of Essex Authorities
LA21 Members Group**

**Association of Essex Authorities
Regional Strategy Group**

**Association of Essex Authorities
Community Safety Members' Steering Committee**

Anglia Polytechnic University – Consultative Committee

Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council

Castle Point Borough Council European Liaison Committee

**Castle Point (Southend on Sea and District) Post and
Telecommunications Advisory Committee**

Castle Point and Rochford Drug Reference Group

Rayleigh & Rochford Citizens Advice Bureau Limited

Castle Point and Rochford Police Community Consultative Group

Community Legal Service Steering Group

Consortium of Waste Collection Authorities

Cory Environmental Trust

Council for the Protection of Rural Essex

Crouch Harbour Authority

Crouch Valley Scout District

East of England Local Government Conference

Essex County Youth Service Local Strategy Group

Essex Heritage Trust

Great Eastern Rail Forum

Hockley Community Centre Association – Executive Committee

Hockley and Hawkwell Old Peoples Welfare Committee

Hullbridge Community Association

Hullbridge Senior Citizens Welfare Council

The Old Peoples Welfare Committee for Rochford & District

Local Government Association

LGA Rural Commission

“ROOM” The National Council for Housing and Planning

Rawreth Parish Hall

Rayleigh Age Concern

Rayleigh Mount Local Committee

Regional Employers Organisation

Relate South Essex

Roche Care Centre Users Group

Rochford Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Group

Rochford Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme

Rochford District Local Transportation Panel

Rochford Domestic Violence Panel

Rochford Health for All 2000 Action Team

Rochford & District Chamber of Trade and Commerce

Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils

Rochford Sports Council

Rural Community Council of Essex

Sanctuary Housing Association

London Southend Airport Consultative Committee

NCE SHAPE Ltd

South East Essex Economic Strategy Group

South Essex Environmental Protection Sub Committee

Southend District Community Health Council

Southend District Mental Health Association

Springboard Home Improvement Service Support Group

Thames Gateway - South Essex

Waste Management Advisory Board

Youth Sports Advisory Group

Active Christian Trust – The Warehouse Centre

57 South Street Joint Management Board