

## **ANGLIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY – APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BENFLEET CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report details a request from Anglia Polytechnic University (APU) for a District Council representative to be appointed to the University's Benfleet Consultative Council.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Prior to the recent review of Outside Bodies this Authority could appoint to a seat on the APU Consultative Committee. At the time of the review the seat was vacant. In reviewing this particular body, Council concluded that it would be appropriate for membership to be ended, the activity of the Body being marginal to the corporate objectives of the Authority.
- 2.2 The University has now been in contact with the Council requesting that the Council reconsider its representation on its Benfleet Consultative Council.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 A letter setting out why the University considers it would be appropriate to maintain links with the District Council by means of the Consultative Council at Benfleet is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. Details of the precise purpose of the Body, together with information on the timing, frequency and location of meetings is set out at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 From the University's original submission to the outside body review it was not clear that the appointment was specifically to the Benfleet Consultative Council. This suggests a more local basis of work, rather than being on the consultative committee for the APU as a whole. As can be seen from Appendix 1, the University is citing links with developments in South Essex and the Thames Corridor (including economic development aspects) amongst reasons why appointee involvement could be appropriate. Members may consider that this aspect means that it is of value for the Council to be involved.
- 3.3 One of the conclusions of the last review was that, wherever possible, appointments should be from the membership of an appropriate policy committee or overview and scrutiny committee. The purpose of this particular body would most closely align with the work of the Policy and Finance Committee or the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Council also agreed that all appointees should have a substitute and be asked to report on the work of a body to which they are appointed via the Members' Bulletin twice per year.

**4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 These are as set out at page 5.15 of the Council's Constitution.

**5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Members who attend outside body meetings are entitled to claim travel and subsistence allowances. These claims should only be made when there has been no support from the outside body concerned towards travel and subsistence.

**6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS** to Full Council whether a representative and substitute should be appointed to the Anglia Polytechnic University Benfleet Consultative Council for the remainder of 2003/04. (HAMS)

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative and Member Services

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**Background Papers:**

None

For further information please contact John Bostock on:-

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## APPENDIX 1

A S S E L A P O I T E R N I F U N I V E R S I T Y

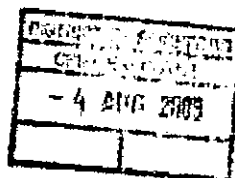


29 July 2003

CG/Ltr1146/dc-ext4923

(Secretary: e-mail [d.j.loudoun@apu.ac.uk](mailto:d.j.loudoun@apu.ac.uk)/ fax 01245 348765/ext 4924)

Paul Warren  
 Rochford District Council  
 Council Offices  
 South Street  
 Rochford  
 Essex  
 SS4 1BW



Dear Paul

RE: Outside Body Review

Further to your letter to me of the 13<sup>th</sup> June and my reply of the 4<sup>th</sup> July, I would be grateful if you could bring to Member's attention the reason why we feel that it is important to maintain links with Rochford District Council through the APU Consultative Council at Banfleet.

Members should be aware that the Consultative Council was established to provide a direct link in with the various stakeholders which we serve. It has always been envisaged that those stakeholders include Local District Council in whose areas we operate, representatives of different educational organisations (eg local Further Education Colleges and Schools), representatives of local businesses as well as other community users.

Increasingly APU's Banfleet Campus is being used as a community resource with some of the principal users including Rochford and Castle Point Adult Education College as well as providing a venue for Continuing Professional Development activities.

Since we see this as contributing to the economic growth in South Essex, we want to make sure the links are strengthened with those District Councils with whom we have had close working relationships. Clearly, Southend Unitary is not a member because of its links with SEEC and the University of Essex, but I hope that we may be able to extend our membership to include colleagues from Basildon District Council in addition to Castle Point.

Why having the links with Members, it enables us to be more responsive to programmes we are offering and to work more effectively through with community organisations.

I hope this provides a sufficient reason for maintaining membership of the group which is not likely to involve more than three meetings in the next calendar year.

Given the significance of the development of Higher Education, and the lack of provision in the Thames Corridor, it is vital that we continue to maintain a sense of coherence between



the economic aspirations of each District and what we are able to offer. So, for example, the development of vocation programmes becomes even more important. Hence, we are offering a Foundation Degree in Early Years for the first time from September 2003 which is already heavily subscribed. This will enable students working in care settings to get Senior Practitioner status. That is an example of the kind of direction I would expect us to be taking.

I look forward to hearing from you, and if you feel that there is anything further we need to do, then would you please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Professor Chris Green OBE  
Director Regional Office

**APPENDIX 2**

**ANGLIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY – BENFLEET CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL**

**Purpose:**

A forum, which enables representatives of the local community to have an input into the work/development plans of the APU in South East Essex and develop a wider knowledge of the work of the university.

**Time of meetings:**

Meetings commence at 5:00 pm with a buffet.

**Frequency of meetings:**

Three times a year. Next meeting is scheduled for 11 November 2003.

**Location of meetings:**

The APU Benfleet Campus, The White House, Kiln Road, Thundersley.