

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Head of Corporate Organisation	Report Number: R49
To: Council	Date of Meeting: 22 September 2015

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

Following the decisions made at the Council meeting on 28 July as a result of the recent review ([Paper R30](#) refers) Members are asked to make decisions on the outstanding matters set out below.

- (a) Appointments to County-wide Scrutiny bodies – Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub Committee (SFRM Sub Committee) and Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee (SHS Committee) – Councillors Frank Lawrenson and Jan Osborne respectively.

When notified of the above appointments of two of Babergh's Portfolio Holders / Strategy Committee members, Suffolk County Council's Head of Democratic Services asked Council to review those appointments in the light of the following information:-

Both the SFRM Sib Committee and the SHS Committee are County Council bodies which fall under the remit of its Scrutiny arrangements. SCC does not allow members with Cabinet responsibility to sit on its Scrutiny Committees and also has regard to the membership of any outside body that may give rise to a conflict of interests.

Notwithstanding that Babergh is a '4th option authority' the appointment of a Portfolio Holder and member of the Council's main decision-making Committee could give rise to concerns that the County Council was being inconsistent in applying its Constitution. The Constitutions of both Babergh and Mid Suffolk have the same provisions regarding no cross-over between Strategy / Executive and Scrutiny members in order to avoid any potential, or perception of, conflict of interests.

Members are therefore asked to consider making alternative appointments, of non-Strategy Committee members to both these bodies. Nominations will be put forward at the meeting.

- (b) Greenways Countryside Project Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)

As a result of the recent officer review of representation on outside bodies, the JAC was not included in the proposed list of appointments considered at the last meeting.

The Council has now been asked by the Project Manager to re-consider making an appointment to the JAC and has provided information about the Project, as summarised below.

The Greenways Countryside Project has existed for 21 years and is a partnership between Ipswich Borough Council (lead and employing authority), Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Babergh District Council. The Project manages around 50 nature reserves and green spaces in and around Ipswich for the benefit of wildlife and local people, and has 2 staff together with a considerable number of volunteers.

The four partner authorities contribute around half of the cost of running the Project each year through 'core' funding, with some making additional contributions for specific site-based work

The JAC meets twice per year and has 2 half day site tours to look at work achieved and discuss important issues. Each authority can send 2 Councillors to the JAC, and substitutes are encouraged to attend meetings and tours. For the last 5 or so years, Babergh appointed one Councillor to the JAC, the other partners each take up their two places.

The JAC also has representatives of local conservation and relevant community groups which ensures genuine community involvement in the Project.

There is currently no signed agreement for the Project, but a draft Memorandum of Agreement is currently being drafted for consideration by the partners by the partners.

Further information about the Project is available via the following link.

<http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/lwn/local-wildlife-news-september-to-december-2015/>

(c) Western Area Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Responsible Authorities Group – RAG)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk both appointed 2 representatives to this Group but have subsequently been advised that each Council is entitled to 1 member and 1 substitute member only.

Members are asked to endorse Jan Osborne as the representative with Sue Ayres to be the substitute, as agreed with the Leader of the Council.

(d) Greater Ipswich City Board Deal

At the Council meetings in July, Gerard Brewster and Simon Barrett were both appointed by the respective Councils as the joint Member representative on the Board. With the agreement of both Council Leaders, Members are asked to endorse Gerard's appointment as the representative, with Simon as the nominated substitute.

(e) Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)

1 Member representative (David Holland) was appointed. Babergh is entitled to 2 places on the JAC and the Project Manager has asked whether we wish to take up the second place.

(f) Appointment of substitute members

The Head of Corporate Organisation to report that at the Council meeting on 28 July 2015, it was agreed that where substitutes were not appointed on 28 July, nominations to the relevant bodies (now as listed below) would be considered at this meeting.

- Haven Gateway Partnership
- Ipswich Policy Area Board
- Suffolk Flood Risk Scrutiny Sub-Committee (see above regarding those eligible for appointment)
- Joint Waste Management Board
- *Greenways JAC (if the decision made under (b) above is to appoint a representative)*

Nominations will be reported at the meeting.

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