

Decision Maker: GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 13th November 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: Various

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10th June 2014 the Committee made appointments to various outside bodies. This report picks up outstanding appointments, including two where there have been resignations since June, and in particular provides an update on a number of cases where the Committee asked that the continuing need for appointments to be made was reviewed.
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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) **That, subject to suitable nominations being received, appointments to the following outside bodies be made –**

Duke of Edinburgh Award Committee (two appointments for the remainder of a one year term.)

Cray Valley War Memorial Hall (one appointment (of four) for a four year term to 8th June 2018.)

Affinity Sutton London Regional Scrutiny Board (one appointment for the remainder of a one year term.)

- (2) **Consideration of appointments to the William Mosyer Charity, St Mary Cray, Bromley Relief in Need and the Joanna Collett Charity, Chelsfield be deferred.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Representation
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1,165,780
 5. Source of funding: Revenue budget
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 At the first meeting of each Council year this Committee makes appointments to outside bodies on behalf of the Council. These are mainly annual appointments, but some are for three or four year terms, particularly in a Council election year.

3.2 Since the 2014 appointments were made, there have been two resignations and the Committee is requested to appoint replacements –

Cray Valley War Memorial Hall: Cllr Chris Pierce has resigned from his appointment, leaving one vacancy for the remainder of the four year term expiring on 8th June 2018. The Committee is recommended to fill this vacancy, should a suitable candidate be nominated. (The other three Council appointments to this body are Councillors Teresa Ball, Peter Fortune and Angela Page.)

Affinity Sutton Regional Scrutiny Board: Cllr Nicholas Bennett has resigned as the Council representative for 2014/15. At the request of Cllr Bennett, his letter of resignation has been attached as appendix 1. The Committee is requested to appoint one Councillor to fill this vacancy.

3.3 At the meeting on 10th June 2014, the Committee decided to defer making a number of three or four year appointments to small local charities while the need for these appointments was reviewed. Officers have been seeking information to assist the Committee and the current position is set out below.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Support Committee: Two members are appointed. After some uncertainty earlier in the year, it is confirmed that this committee is active and it is recommended that the Committee proceeds to appoint two Members. Appointments were previously made for three year terms, but it is recommended that the appointments be made annually in future, to accord with the Council year.

William Mosyer Charity, St Mary Cray: This small charity relates to the Ancient Parish of St Mary Cray, and its objective is the relief of persons resident in the Parish who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. It is possible that it might be merged with other local charities; while this is explored it is recommended that appointments are deferred.

Bromley Relief in Need Charity: This charity's objectives are to provide relief from poverty by making grants to individuals within the ancient borough of Bromley (although there is discretion to make grants to those within the wider area represented by the modern borough.) Further information is awaited from the charity.

Joanna Collett Charity, Chelsfield: This charity was set up to provide funds for the maintenance of the church of St Martin of Tours, Chelsfield, and in particular the historic tomb of the Collett family. The charity is active and the trustees have been in contact with officers. However, there has been some historical confusion about the charity and a sister charity, the Colegates Charity, and the involvement of the Council and it is recommended that appointments are deferred while the situation is clarified.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Finance/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Outside Bodies Report to Committee on 10 th June 2014

Dear Tony

As Chairman of the GP&L Committee which is responsible for the nomination of representatives to the Affinity Sutton Regional Scrutiny Board via the Council I wish to tender my resignation as one of the two council representatives on this body.

I do so for the following reasons

- i. I do not believe that the Regional Scrutiny Board (RSB) is fit for purpose. I read of many complaints about the way AS's contractors handle repairs yet the RSB doesn't, in my view, effectively scrutinise and propose actions to improve the situation.
- ii. I was appalled by the treatment of the elderly couple, Mr and Mrs Younger, who were ordered on 'Health and Safety' grounds to remove a wooden bench which according to the story in the News Shopper (September 15th 2014) had been outside their home for 14 years. This old fashioned 'municipal' attitude is no way to treat tenants
- iii. The final straw was the 'diversity' training which took up a major part of the last meeting. We meet for a total of 10 hours a year and frankly I have better things to do than spend one of them considering 'unconscious bias' with reference to a television programme which, at the risk of sounding like a High Court Judge, I have never watched or wish to watch. Clearly someone at AS thinks that this is a useful use of our time despite no sign whatsoever that the RSB has ever had a discussion or made a decision which exhibits some form of bias. No doubt this ticks some requirement set down by the main board of Affinity Sutton.
- iv. This is a Housing Association which pays its Chief Executive, Keith Exford, £289,000 a year. He is the fourth highest paid HA boss in the country despite the fact that Affinity Sutton is not in the top ten HAs by turnover. He also received a £36,000 bonus in 2012-3. Given the complaints about the repairs I do question on what basis the bonus is paid or that he should receive a basic pay twice that of the Prime Minister.

Best wishes

Nicholas

Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP