

Decision Maker: GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 July 2017

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

Title: REVIEW OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Ward: Not Applicable

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 One of this Committee's duties is to make appointments to a range of partnerships and "outside bodies" on behalf of the Council. Most of these appointments are made annually, following the Council year, in May. This report offers the opportunity to review the purpose of making these appointments.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is requested to comment on appointments to outside bodies.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not applicable
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Corporate Policy

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

1. Cost of proposal:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £343,810
 5. Source of funding: 2017/18 Revenue Budget
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 (6.67fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable
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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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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Not applicable
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not applicable

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 This Committee makes a range of appointments to partnerships and outside bodies on behalf of the Council. The appointments range from nominating to a number of positions at London Councils, to various partnerships, local and regional bodies, to small local charities. Many of the appointments follow the Council year (May to May), but some follow different patterns or involve terms of office of three or four years, as specified by the bodies themselves. In the case of many of the local charities, the Council's nominees do not necessarily have to be Councillors. This Committee makes its appointments based on nominations received from the party groups.

3.2 For the purposes of reviewing these appointments, they can be broken down into the following categories –

(a) London Councils (5 Committees)

London Councils is a cross-party organisation representing the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London.

The Council is also requested by London Councils to nominate spokespersons for 8 different issues.

(b) Partnership Appointments and Local Boards

These are primarily local bodies where the Council is closely involved as a major partner.

(c) Organisations providing services in the Borough

These are organisations and partners providing services in the borough. Some have historic links to the Council, such as the Clarion Housing Group or Mytime Active.

(d) London/Regional Organisations

These are bodies with representation from across London (and sometimes wider). In some cases, the representation is shared with other authorities.

(e) Local Charities and Foundations

The number of these small local charities has reduced in recent years as some have become inactive, been wound up or amalgamated. Many of these appointments will relate to a specific locality and therefore ward councillors will be appointed.

A list of all outside body appointments is set out in Appendix A.

3.3 Guidance for Members of the Council appointed to serve on outside bodies is included as an appendix to the Council's Constitution – see Appendix B to this report.

3.4 The Constitution Improvement Working Group recommended in 2009 that Councillors appointed to outside bodies with a significant role in the borough or expenditure should provide a short annual report to provide an additional degree of accountability. This recommendation was endorsed by Council, and since then these reports have been received at the annual Council meeting each May. Reports are provided for the following outside bodies –

- Clarion Housing Group (formerly Broomleigh/Affinity Sutton)
- Mytime Active
- Bromley Youth Music Trust
- Community Links Bromley

- 3.5 Membership of outside bodies is a means for Members to extend and maintain the influence of the Council, and to scrutinise the activities of these organisations, many of which have an impact on residents of the borough. Some of the local charities are quite small-scale, with limited local impact, and the Committee might want to consider whether the Council should continue to be committed to providing representatives. In most of these cases, it is not necessary for the Council to appoint Members, but if non-members are appointed this does reduce the potential influence of the Council. In most cases the involvement of Members is appreciated, and the Council continues to receive occasional new requests for representatives. Recent additions to the list include Nash College in Hayes, an independent specialist college for learners with moderate to profound learning disabilities, and the Bromley Community Fund.
- 3.6 There are no costs involved in serving on outside bodies, other than the time and commitment of the Members involved. Members are entitled to claim travel expenses or journeys outside the borough on Council business, and this could include outside body meetings, but the amounts actually claimed are minimal.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/ Policy/Finance/ Personnel/Legal/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None