

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6****OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>6 AUGUST 2012</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT FEEDBACK</b>

**1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY**

To advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the proposed mechanism for Elected Members to report back on the activities of Outside Bodies.

**2. KEY ISSUES**

The Council appoints Elected Members to represent it on a range of Outside Bodies, both at national and local level. Such appointments ensure that the Council's interests and therefore the people of Fenland are represented within key agencies.

Recent years have seen a general rise in the workload of Councillors. As a result the Council has previously undertaken a review of Outside Body appointments to ensure representatives are appointed to organisations of strategic or district wide importance and in line with the corporate aims of the organisation.

At present the District Council does not have a formal mechanism in place which effectively enables Members to feedback to their fellow Councillors on the activities of the outside bodies they have been appointed to.

**3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the recommended feedback mechanism in relation to Outside Bodies as follows;

- Utilise the effective established processes already in existence for feeding back information to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Provide designated opportunities within the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for feedback from and to Outside Bodies
- Include feedback received from the Outside Bodies in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Portfolio Holder (s)</b>	Councillor Pop Jolley Overview and Scrutiny Chairman <a href="mailto:PJolley@fenland.gov.uk">PJolley@fenland.gov.uk</a> Councillor John Chambers Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice Chairman <a href="mailto:jchambers@fenland.gov.uk">jchambers@fenland.gov.uk</a>
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<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	None

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Council appoints Elected Members to represent it on a range of Outside Bodies, both at a national and local level. Such appointments ensure that the Council's interests and therefore citizens of Fenland are represented within key agencies.

The Council recognises the value and contribution outside organisations make to the wider community. Members also welcome the opportunity for the Council to be represented on outside organisations which operate within Fenland.

## 2. CURRENT POSITION

In terms of the Council's scheme of administration all Outside Body appointments are considered by a Member of Cabinet and approved by Council. The Member Services Team maintains a list of all appointments in addition to holding information about the role and objectives of each of the Outside Bodies. This process ensures the appointments to Outside Bodies are focussed on providing benefit to the Council.

At present the Council appoints to 72 Outside body organisations, several of which are similar in their nature and therefore tend to have the same Fenland District Councillor representatives for consistency.

Feedback is an excellent vehicle to communicate the Council's involvement in outside bodies to the wider community. It is important for the Council to receive feedback on issues affecting outside organisations where Members are nominated to represent the Council.

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

Members' feedback demonstrates transparency in local government through the open reporting of their activities and involvements with and on behalf of the Council with Outside Bodies.

Any proposed feedback mechanism would have to take account of the Elected Members duty of confidentiality to the Outside Body as outlined in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

The organisations which the Council currently appoints representatives on are listed at Appendix 1.

In view of the strategic wide importance of appointments to Outside Bodies, regular reporting back to Overview and Scrutiny, of work undertaken by representatives appointed to these organisations, is encouraged. The precedent of sharing information with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is already well established as the panel receives updates in relation to performance of the corporate priorities which are delivered by the District Council and its partners, including information about pertinent outside bodies is a further logical extension to that established and successful approach.

It is therefore suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny work programme includes two opportunities per annum for Members appointed to outside bodies, by invitation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to share their involvement and activities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can also take the opportunity to feed into any decisions being taken by Outside bodies in a proactive manner.

The feedback received from and input to Outside bodies can then be shared more widely with Council via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report, thus ensuring effective and transparent flows of information.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to agree the feedback mechanism in relation to Outside Bodies which will ensure the effective flow of information from and to Outside Bodies utilising processes which are already well established and effective.

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submit this recommendation to Council to enable the recommended changes to be implemented in the Autumn of 2012.

## **APPENDIX 1 OUTSIDE BODY ORGANISATIONS**

1.	Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee (CCC) (Appointed at Overview and Scrutiny Panel 2011) <b>(1)</b>
2.	Archives and Local Studies Group (formerly Archives County Advisory Group) <b>(1)</b>
3.	Benwick Internal Drainage Board <b>(3)</b>
4.	Cambridgeshire ACRE Organisation (formerly Cambridgeshire ACRE Executive Committee/Cambridgeshire Community Council)
5.	Cambridgeshire Children's Trust <b>(1)</b>
6.	Cambridgeshire Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) <b>(1)</b>
7.	Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Partnership <b>(1)</b>
8.	Chatteris Sports Facilities Project Group (formerly Chatteris Town Council Leisure Centre Working Group) <b>(3)</b>
9.	College of West Anglia Governing Body <b>(1)</b>
10.	Community Based Learning Partnership (1)
11.	Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board <b>(1)</b> (Replaces 3 Boards)
12.	East Cambs and Fenland Children and Young People's Partnership <b>(2)</b>
13.	Estover Playing Field Association Management Board <b>(1)</b>
14.	Feldale Internal Drainage Board <b>(7)</b>
15.	Fenland Arts Association <b>(2)</b>
16.	Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT)
17.	Fenland Citizens' Advice Bureau <b>(3)</b>
18.	Fenland Community Safety Partnership <b>(1)</b>
19.	Fenland Diverse Communities Forum <b>(1)</b>
20.	Fenland Health and Social Wellbeing Partnership <b>(1)</b> This Partnership is being refreshed and has not met recently (09.01.12)
21.	Fenland Strategic Partnership <b>(1)</b>
22.	Fenland Traffic Management Area Joint Committee <b>(5)</b>
23.	Fenland Transport and Access Partnership <b>(1)</b>
24.	Fenland Twinning Association <b>(4)</b>
25.	Hanson/Fletton Brickworks Industry <b>(2)</b>
26.	Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel <b>(1)</b>
27.	Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board <b>(14)</b>
28.	Informal Adult Learning and Skills Partnership <b>(1)</b>
29.	King Edward Centre Trustees <b>(1)</b>
30.	Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board <b>(1)</b>
31.	Local Government Association <b>(1)</b>
32.	Local Government Association - Rural Commission <b>(1)</b>
33.	Local Government Association - Urban Commission <b>(1)</b>
34.	Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners <b>(2)</b>
35.	March and Whittlesey Internal Drainage Board <b>(6)</b>
36.	March East Internal Drainage Board <b>(11)</b>
37.	March Educational Foundation <b>(1)</b>
38.	March Fifth Internal Drainage Board <b>(6)</b>
39.	March Market Town Transport Strategy <b>(2)</b> (To Spring 2013)
40.	March Regeneration Partnership <b>(1)</b>
41.	March Sixth District Drainage Commissioners <b>(4)</b>

42.	March Third District Drainage Commissioners <b>(8)</b>
43.	March Twinning Association <b>(1)</b>
44.	Mepal Outdoor Centre Board of Management <b>(1)</b>
45.	Middle Level Commissioners <b>(3)</b>
46.	Needham and Laddus Internal Drainage Board <b>(1)</b>
47.	Nightlayers Internal Drainage Board <b>(10)</b>
48.	Noble and Grounds Charities <b>(2)</b>
49.	North Level Internal Drainage Board (amalgamated with Westside Marshes IDB) <b>(7)</b>
50.	North Level Internal Drainage Board Technical Committee
51.	Oasis Village Centre (Wisbech Community Development Trust) <b>(1)</b>
52.	Pensions Committee (formerly County Pensions Fund Investment Panel/County Pensions Investment Panel) <b>(1)</b> Not appointed by FDC
53.	Ransonmoor District Drainage Commissioners <b>(2)</b>
54.	RECAP (Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) Waste Management Member Forum <b>(RECAP Board 04/09/09)</b> <b>(1)</b>
55.	Regional Tourism Council formerly East of England Tourist Board <b>(1)</b>
56.	Regional Waste Forum <b>(1)</b> Members are contacted on-line as required.
57.	Roddons Housing Association Limited <b>(5)</b>
58.	The Storers Herds and Bulls Grass Trust <b>(2)</b>
59.	United Charities (John Bend's United Charities, Parson Drove) <b>(1)</b>
60.	Upwell Internal Drainage Board <b>(2)</b>
61.	Waldersey Internal Drainage Board <b>(2)</b>
62.	Warboys, Somersham and Pidley Internal Drainage Board <b>(1)</b>
63.	Whittlesey and District Internal Drainage Board <b>(2)</b> Incorporates Drysides Internal Drainage Board
64.	Whittlesey Market Town Transport Strategy <b>(2)</b> Consultation runs November 2011 to 31 January 2012
65.	WisARD (formerly Wisbech Regeneration Partnership) <b>(1)</b>
66.	Wisbech and District Chamber of Trade <b>(1)</b>
67.	Wisbech and Fenland Museum Management Committee <b>(3)</b>
68.	Wisbech Angles Theatre Council Executive Committee <b>(1)</b>
69.	Wisbech Indoor Bowls Management Committee <b>(1)</b>
70.	Wisbech Market Town Transport Strategy <b>(2)</b>
71.	Wisbech/Arles Twinning Club <b>(1)</b>
72.	Young People March <b>(1)</b>

**APPENDIX 2 POTENTIAL OUTSIDE BODIES FEEDBACK FORM**

COUNCILLOR:
Meeting Commitment: (e.g. 3 per annum)
Meetings attended: (Date (s))
Details of any topics relevant to Fenland District Council
Matters to be taken forward by Councillor e.g. to be raised at group meeting level or at Scrutiny Committee, cabinet or Council)

Once completed, please return to [Member.services@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:Member.services@fenland.gov.uk)