


Agenda Item No:	5	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	16 June 2025	
Report Title:	Outside Body Appointments 2025/26	

COVER SHEET:

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to enable Cabinet to review and agree the list of outside bodies and nominations for representatives on those organisations for 2025/26.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The nomination and review of representatives on outside body organisations is the responsibility of Cabinet.
- 2.2 In addition to attending Council meetings and other constituency work, Councillors are required to sit as representatives of the Council on other organisations and agencies known as Outside Bodies.
- 2.3 An "Outside Body" is an organisation that has a separate governance structure to that of the Council. The Council appoints elected members to represent it on a range of Outside Bodies at a national and local level. Such appointments ensure that the Council's and residents' interests are represented within key agencies.
- 2.4 The Council recognises the value outside organisations make to the wider community and in the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities.
- 2.5 The list of Outside Bodies and the allocation of seats is set out at Appendix A and have been calculated in accordance with the ordinary provisions of the 1989 Act as agreed at Full Council in May 2025.
- 2.6 In December 2013, Cabinet received a series of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny in relation to Outside Bodies. One recommendation within the report stated that members of Outside Bodies should only be drawn from the current FDC membership and the continuation of this requirement was agreed by Cabinet at it's meeting on 15th July 2024.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 3.1 Agree the appointments set out at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Note where requirements to provide representatives to outside bodies cannot currently be fulfilled.

- 3.3 Delegate to the Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders the addition or deletion of outside bodies as the need arises during the municipal year and appointment of members to vacancies on outside bodies during the municipal year.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance
Report Originator(s)	Carol Pilson, Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer cpilson@fenland.gov.uk Amy Brown, Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer amybrown@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	Elaine Cooper, Team Leader – Elections, Land charges and Member Services – ecooper@fenland.gov.uk
Background Papers	Report to Council – Committee Balance, Political Balance and Allocation of Seats, May 2025.

REPORT:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 Cabinet have endorsed that Outside Bodies should fall into one of the following criteria in order to receive representation from the District Council:
- Statutory Outside Bodies
 - Organisation to which the District Council contributes funding - To ensure public money is used properly and achieves value for money.
 - Organisations which have a clear link to key objectives outlined in the Business Plan.
- 1.2 In accordance with legislative requirements, local and national convention, allocations to seats on outside bodies are to the majority group where there are 2 or fewer seats available but in all other cases politically proportionate percentages are applied to recognised groups or, where alternative arrangements are agreed, such other nominees as may be appropriate.
- 1.3 The table contained within Appendix A outlines the Outside Bodies currently requiring representation, the level of required representation and the proposed appointments to those seats. Cabinet are asked to approve these proposals.

1.4 There are a small number of remaining opportunities for representation which remain vacant. Cabinet are asked to note these at this time.

1.5 Cabinet is asked to delegate responsibility for making in year changes to the number of outside bodies and/or the allocation of seats to the Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the group leaders.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Fenland District Council recognises the benefits of endorsing Outside Body appointments. It is the responsibility of Cabinet to confirm those appointments following the Annual Meeting of Full Council where the overall political proportionality calculations are confirmed. The appointments proposed reflect the Council's legal obligations and accepted convention in relation to the allocation of seats in accordance with political proportionality requirements.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 There are no specific consultation requirements connected with the recommendations set out in this report however, the proposals set out in Appendix A have been formulated with input from the Group Leaders. A full review of the Outside Bodies on the list has also been conducted to ensure that each of the appointments remains relevant to the agreed criteria set out at paragraph 1.1.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 There are no alternative options for consideration in relation to this Report.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

5.2 The proposals set out in this Report accord with Fenland District Council's legal obligations and accepted standards of practice in relation to outside body appointments.

5.3 FDC is able to appoint whomever it believes to be fit to fulfil its obligations in relation to Outside Bodies and it a matter for Cabinet to make those appointments.

5.4 A full review of the Outside Bodies has taken place to ensure that all the entries in Appendix A remain relevant to the criteria specified at paragraph 1.1. Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the forthcoming municipal year will also be requested to complete a feedback form at the end of the year.

5.5 Financial Implications

There are no new financial obligations associated with the recommendations set out in this report. Attendance at meetings of outside bodies attracts the payment of mileage and expenses in accordance with the Council's Member Allowances Scheme.

5.6 Equality Implications

There are no specific equality implications in relation to the recommendations set out in this Report.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix A: List of Outside Bodies and Associated Appointments

APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The percentages for the purpose of the calculations have been applied and create the following results:

Conservative	FIA	Ungrouped	Total
Entitlement: 114 Allocation: 119	Entitlement: 23 Allocation: 18	N/A	137

Based on the above, provided the overall entitlement is agreed by Full Council, the recommendations make provision for Group Leaders to negotiate the reallocation of seats before appointments are finally confirmed and agreed at the next Cabinet meeting in June.

As the proposals reflect the ordinary application of the 1989 Act (as opposed to the Alternative Arrangements agreed by Full Council last year), the ungrouped member would lose their 1 seat on the Hundred of Wisbech IDB which automatically becomes a vacant FIA (as reflected in the Table below). Furthermore, the overall agreed allocation of seats for 2023/24 resulted in the conservative group gaining 5 seats. The data presented in the Table represents the current position (save in respect of the amendments in relation to the ungrouped seat) and remain open for discussion/negotiation between the Leaders as appropriate.

Outside Body	Representation Required	Proportionality	Substantive Nominee	Substitute
Anglia Revenue Partnership	1 substantive 2 substitutes	Conservative		
Benwick Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	4	3 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Cambridgeshire Horizons Board	1	Conservative		N/A
Cambridgeshire Military Community Covenant Board	1	Conservative		N/A
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative		
Chatteris Community Centre Association	2	2 Conservative		N/A
College of West Anglia Governing Body	1	Conservative		N/A
Community Learning and Skills Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
Curf and Wimblington Combined IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
Feldale IDB	7	6 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Fenland Association of Community Transport	1	Conservative		N/A
Fenland Diverse Communities Forum	1	Conservative		N/A
Fenland Health and Care Forum	Open meeting		Any members can attend	
Fenland Tension Monitoring Group	1	Conservative		N/A
Fenland Transport and Access Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
Hanson, Fletton Brickworks Industry	1	Conservative		N/A
Health Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr H Nawaz	Cllr D Laws

Outside Body	Representation Required	Proportionality	Substantive Nominee	Substitute
Hundred of Wisbech IDB	15	12 Conservative 3 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr G Booth Cllr D Roy Cllr M Summers	N/A
Kings Lynn IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
LGA/ LGA Rural Commission/ LGA Urban Commission	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative		
Manea and Welney Drainage Commissioners	3	2 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March Area Transport Study	2	2 Conservative		N/A
March West and White Fen Internal Drainage Board	6	5 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March East IDB	11	9 Conservative 2 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr J Clark Cllr P Hicks	N/A
March Education Foundation	1	Conservative		N/A
March Fifth District Drainage Commissioners	8	7 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March Sixth District Drainage Commissioners	4	3 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March Third IDB	5	4 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Middle Level Commissioners	3	2 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Needham and Laddus IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
Nightlayer IDB	10	8 Conservative 2 FIA		N/A
North Level District IDB	7	6 Conservative 1 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr G Booth	N/A

Outside Body	Representation Required	Proportionality	Substantive Nominee	Substitute
Wisbech Community Development Trust (Oasis Village Centre)	1	Conservative		N/A
Ransonmoor District Drainage Commissioners	2	2 Conservative		N/A
RECAP	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative		
Rural Cambs CAB	3	2 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Safer Fenland Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
The Combined Authority Board	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr C Boden	Cllr S Hoy
The Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 substantive 2 substitutes	2 Conservative	Cllr E Sennitt Clough Cllr A Hay	Cllr L Foice-Beard Cllr J Mockett
The Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr G Christy	Cllr S Wallwork
The Combined Authority HR Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr S Tierney	Cllr C Boden
The Combined Authority Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr S Tierney	Cllr D Laws
The Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr C Seaton	Cllr H Nawaz
The Combined Authority Employment and Skills Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr I Benney	Cllr H Nawaz

Outside Body	Representation Required	Proportionality	Substantive Nominee	Substitute
Investment Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute			
Upwell IDB	2			N/A
Waldersey IDB	2	2 Conservative		N/A
Warboys, Somersham and Pidley IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
Whittlesey & District IDB	5	4 Conservative 1 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr R Gerstner	N/A
Wisbech Access Strategy Member Steering Group	2	2 Conservative		N/A
Young People March	1	Conservative		N/A
Water Resources East (WRE) Strategic Advisory Group	1	Conservative		N/A
Community Rail Partnership	1	Conservative	Cllr Seaton	N/A
TOTAL	137 substantive 15 substitutions	119 Conservative 18 FIA		