

Area North Committee – Appointment of Members to Outside Organisations and Groups for 2015/16 (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

As the Council has entered a new municipal year, the Committee is asked to review its appointments to outside organisations and working groups within Area North, having regard to the policy on the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies (adopted by District Executive on 1st May 2014).

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note that a separate report will be made later in the year to provide an update about the Area North Marketing Working group.
- (2) Appoint a member to represent Area North Committee regarding Community Safety / Neighbourhood Policing Liaison.
- (3) Review and appoint members to the outside organisations and groups for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A.

Area North – Neighbourhood Policing liaison

SDDC is a partner to the Safer Somerset Partnership, although there is no formal governance at a local level with each area supporting arrangements which best meet the needs and priorities of local communities.

Area North Committee appoints a councillor to be the committee's link with the Area Neighbourhood Policing team. Ward members are encouraged to link with the local beat managers and PCSOs and town/parish councillors to understand and address local issues.

The Area Sergeant will be invited to attend a future meeting of the Area Committee, together with further information on how SDDC works locally to promote community safety.

Outside Organisations and Groups

The organisations and groups to which representatives are requested to be appointed by the Area North Committee for 2015/16 are indicated in Appendix A. The list of organisations was reviewed by Area North Committee in November 2013 and recommendations were made

towards the final policy on the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies, which was adopted by District Executive on 1st May 2014.

Members are now asked to review and appoint members to the outside organisations for 2015/16, having regard to the adopted policy.

Financial Implications

None for Area North Committee. Mileage claimed by councillors (across the district) attending meetings of outside bodies to which they are appointed is approximately £1,000 per annum and is within the existing budget for councillors travelling expenses held by Democratic Services. There may be a small saving resulting from any decision to reduce the number of SSDC appointed outside bodies, however, a number of councillors do not claim any mileage for their attendance at these meetings.

Council Plan Implications

There are several of the Council's Corporate Focuses which encourage partnership working with local groups, including:-

- Work in partnership to deliver investment and development that local people value with particular emphasis on Yeovil and Chard;
- Work with partners to contribute to tackling youth unemployment;
- Work with partners to combat fuel poverty;
- Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people and that the strategic priorities for policing and crime reduction in South Somerset reflect local needs;
- Work with and lobby partners to help communities to develop transport schemes and local solutions to reduce rural isolation and inequalities to meet existing needs of those communities.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

Full consideration to equalities was given in producing the Policy on the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies.

Background Papers

- Minute 29, Area North Committee, 25 June 2014
 - Minute 184, District Executive, 1 May 2014
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Appendix A

Area North Outside Organisations and Groups – Appointments to be considered for 2015/16

| Organisation / Group (Lead officer contact) | Number of Council Reps. | Aims & Objectives | Frequency of Meetings | Existing status of representative |
|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Somerset Levels and Moors Local Action Group Executive Board (Neighbourhood Development Officer - Pauline Burr) | 1 (+ 1 officer) | To support the delivery of a local economic development programme for the Somerset Levels and Moors. Currently in a transition year between the previous and next round of DEFRA funding. (See separate report June 2014). More info at: http://levelsandmoors.somersetleader.org/ | About 6 – 8 per year | Full Member |
| Langport Abattoir Liaison Group (Neighbourhood Development Officer – Teresa Oulds) | 2 | To provide a forum for liaison between the operating companies, the communities of Huish Episcopi and Langport and the local Authorities and other agencies responsible for the regulation of the site. | About 2 - 3 per year | Observer / consultative only |
| Martock Community Planning Partnership (Area Development Manager - Charlotte Jones) | 1 | To own the Martock Vision and monitor delivery of the Martock Local Community Plan. | Quarterly | Full Member |
| Somerset Waterways Advisory Committee (Area Development Manager - Charlotte Jones) | 1 | A joint advisory committee of the County Council, its membership includes co-opted members of the four Somerset District Councils in whose Districts there are existing or disused waterways. | Quarterly | Full member (advisory committee only) |

| Organisation / Group (Lead officer contact) | Number of Council Reps. | Aims & Objectives | Frequency of Meetings | Existing status of representative |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Strode College Community Education Advisory Committee (Area Development Manager - Charlotte Jones) | 1 | Advisory Committee to Board of Governors. Committee reviews and promotes the development of the College's work with adult students and its role in supporting community work. | 3 per year | Full member (advisory committee only) |
| Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre Board (Assistant Director Health and Well- Being Steve Joel) | 2 | Management Company for Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre. | Approx. 3 | Full member |
| Levels and Moors Task Force (Area Development Manager - Charlotte Jones) | 1 | To assist with the development of a shared vision for the Somerset Levels and Moors, under the auspices of the Somerset Water Management Partnership. | As required, but currently not active. | Full member (advisory only) |