

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

29 January, 2014

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Submitted by: **Member Training and Development Officer**

Portfolio: **Finance an Resources**

Ward(s) affected: **Non-specific**

Purpose of the Report

To update Members on the work carried out by Central Services in relation to the Council's representation on outside bodies.

Recommendations

- (a) That the information be received.**
- (b) That Members decide how to further use the information**
- (c) That a request be made to amend the Constitution with regard to attendance.**

Reasons

To ensure that the Council is adequately represented with outside organisations.

1. Background

1.1 At the last meeting of the Panel a number of issues were raised in respect of the list of Outside Bodies held by the Council (and appended to this report). The Council's Member Training and Development Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Healthier Neighbourhoods have met since the last meeting and completed the research.

2. Issues

2.1 There are a number of Groups which receive grant funding from the Council. Information received back revealed a few organisations that stated that they no longer met. Those who did reply did state that it was a big advantage to have a Council representative in attendance.

2.2 It is important for Members to attend the meetings of the Groups who are awarded a grant by the Council and to report back on a regular basis on how the money is being spent. At present this is not a requirement, however, authorisation could be sought from the relevant Committee to make an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that Councillors attend such meetings and if there is no attendance over a six month period, that they be replaced.

3. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 3.1 Performing effective meetings will contribute directly to the 'Transforming our Council to Achieve Excellence' priority within the Corporate Plan.

4. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

5. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications directly associated with this report.

6. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 6.1 There is now a limited budget for the remainder of the current financial year.
- 6.2 The main resource implication associated with the proposals listed in this report is use of Members' time. The process will require a minimal commitment of time from Members if it is to be effective and meaningful. There is little resource implication concerning officers as this process will be Member led and owned by Members.

7. **Major Risks**

- 7.1 There are no major risks associated with this report.

8. **Key Decision Information**

- 8.1 The proposals within this report are not regarded as Key Decisions in the sense that it should be included within the Forward Plan. However, as this is not regarded as a non-Executive function, a Cabinet (executive) decision is required to give effect to the proposals.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

7 November, 2013