

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Council
14 May 2025

Report Title: Appointment to Outside Bodies (Nominees and Changes)

Submitted by: Service Director, Legal and Governance

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To appoint Members to positions within Outside Bodies to represent the Council where these have become vacant or any changes of nominee.

Recommendation

That:

(a) Council agrees any required changes to the Council's representatives on Outside Bodies, notes the appointments for 2025/2026 and asks officers that the relevant organisation(s) be advised.

Reasons

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and to enable council business to be conducted through committees (Sections 101 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972; Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003) and to comply with the requirements in respect of Scrutiny (Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000).

1. Background

Committee Appointments

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the appointment of committees (other than the Executive). Specific provision is made in Section 15 of the Act as to how proportionality requirements should be prioritised as between the number of seats available on each committee and the number of available committee seats overall.
- 1.2 To meet these requirements, minor adjustments often need to be made where, for instance, where a member leaves the Council or is no longer able to fulfil the role.
- 1.3 It now falls to Council to appoint members to the seats allocated to those groups. Nominations made by the groups will be set out in an appendix to be tabled at the meeting.
- 1.4

2. Issues

2.1 Set out above.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That Council makes the Outside Bodies appointments set out in the Appendix to this report and notes the appointed positions.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To comply with the legislative requirements and Council's Constitution.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 Dealt with in the body of the report

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no significant direct financial or resource implications arising from the proposals. There is no change to the number of chairmanships or vice-chairmanships so no impact on members' allowances.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 It is essential that the council's decision-making structures and processes are robust and established in line with the relevant legislation and principles of good governance, to minimise the risk of legal challenge. The proposed approach seeks to ensure those aims are met.

9.2 The appointment of scrutiny committees enables the Council to achieve enhanced accountability and transparency of decision-making process. Scrutiny is a key element of the Council's executive arrangements and is the main way by which executive decision-makers are held to public account for the discharge of the functions for which they are responsible.

9.3 The scrutiny process is a key mechanism for enabling councillors to represent the views of their constituents and other organisations to the cabinet and to the Council and, by examining the operation and impact of the Council's policies, is a useful means of improving the development and delivery of services. Lack of an effective scrutiny function could lead to a lack of democratic accountability for the Council.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

10.1



11. **One Council**

11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Green Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

11.2 Councillor membership of Outside Bodies enables the Council to bring governance, influence and scrutiny to decision-making within the Borough and across Staffordshire.

12. **Key Decision Information**

12.1 This is not a Key Decision.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 Not Applicable.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Appendix 1 Appointments to Outside Bodies

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Not Applicable.