



Committee	Full Council
Date	22/05/2024
Subject	Appointments to Working Groups for 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Councillor Caroline Topping Leader of the Council
Report Author(s)	Lorraine Fitch Democratic Services Manager Lorraine.fitch@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
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Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
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Purpose/Summary

Council is asked to consider Appointments to Working Groups for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as outlined at Appendix A of this report.

Members are also asked to approve the creation of and the appointments to a new Working Group – the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Working Group.

Members are also asked to appoint to the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group.

Recommendation(s)

1. That Members agree to the creation of, and appointments, to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Working Group and the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group and note the Terms of Reference at Appendix A.
2. That the membership of Working Groups for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as agreed by the Political Group Leaders and detailed at Appendix A, be appointed.
3. That the Leader of the Council be granted Delegated Authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Working Groups for the remainder of the 2024/2 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.

Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

Environmental Impact	Delivering positive climate, nature and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and actions we take.
Sustainable Housing	All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.
Tackling Inequalities	Improving quality of life across the district by tackling financial, social and health inequalities.
Thriving Economy	Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.
Our Foundations / governance of the organisation	Appointment to Working Groups enables more in-depth consideration to be given to specific issues. Reviewing Councillor representation on Working Groups ensures that they remain relevant and fit for purpose and allows back bench Councillors to concentrate on their community leadership roles within their own Wards.

Justification for recommendations

1. Background

The Council appoints to Working Groups each year as part of its corporate governance framework and in support of the democratic process and decision-making arrangements.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Members were last appointed to Working Groups in 2023/24 by Full Council at its Annual meeting in May 2023.
- 2.2. The Council currently has the following Working Groups that it appoints to on an annual basis:
 - The Local Plan Working Group
 - The Member Development Steering Group

3. Proposal

- 3.1. In addition to the 2 Working Groups above, it is proposed that Members be appointed to 2 additional Working Groups.
- 3.2. The East Suffolk District currently has a number of nationally significant infrastructure projects and several more are planned. It is therefore proposed that an additional Working Group be created to have oversight and understanding of these projects, and to provide their views and comments to help inform the Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change's position on these projects which individually and cumulatively have a potentially significant impact on our area and communities. The new Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Working Group will contain 12 Members. It will meet 6 times per year and will be led and supported by Philip Ridley, Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning. The draft terms of reference for this Working Group, which will be considered at its first meeting are attached at Appendix A.
- 3.3. It is also proposed that the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group be appointed to, which has the overarching purpose of promoting active travel ie cycling, walking and wheeling, throughout East Suffolk. The Working Group will help facilitate the delivery of the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy and to promote modal shift.
- 3.4. Taking account of all information provided within the report, Members are asked to consider and agree the appointments to the 4 Working Groups contained in Appendix A.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Those Councillors formally appointed to the Council's Working Groups are able to claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

5. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 Risk Implications will be mitigated by Councillors being appointed to these Working Groups, as Councillors are able to examine matters in great depth and have local input at an early stage of the process.
- 7. Options**
- 7.1 Appointing Councillors to Working Groups. Working Groups are set up to examine specific issues in-depth prior to recommendations being put forward to the relevant decision-making body.
- 7.2 Not appointing Councillors to Working Groups. Should the Council decide not to appoint to the Working Groups, then the opportunity for more in-depth consideration of issues could be lost.
- 8. Recommendations**
- That Members agree to the creation of, and appointment to, the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Working Group and the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group and note the Terms of Reference at Appendix A.
 - That the membership of Working Groups for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as agreed by the Political Group Leaders and detailed at Appendix A, be appointed.
 - That the Leader of the Council be granted Delegated Authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Working Groups for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.
- 9. Reasons for Recommendations**
- 9.1 To ensure that Members are appointed to Working Groups for 2024/25.
- 10. Conclusions/Next Steps**
- 10.1 That the appointments to the Working Groups be approved as per Appendix A to this report.

Areas of consideration comments

Section 151 Officer comments:

Those Councillors formally appointed to the Council's Working Groups as the Council's representative are able to claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

Monitoring Officer comments:

The process of Council approving appointments to Working Groups, where the role relates to a Non-Executive function of the Council, adheres to the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

Not applicable

Safeguarding:

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable

Corporate Services implications:

Not applicable

Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A	Proposed list of appointments to Working Groups for 2024/25 – appendix to follow
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Background reference papers:

None