



<b>Committee</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date</b>	20/06/2024
<b>Subject</b>	Appointment to Outside Bodies (Scrutiny Functions) 2024/25
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Report by Councillor Caroline Topping, Leader of the Council
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Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked annually to make an appointment to any relevant Outside Bodies (Scrutiny Functions).

For the 2024/25 Municipal Year, the only Outside Body this relates to is the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee which meets four times per year and is responsible for scrutinising wellbeing and health services across the County.

## Recommendation(s)

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Consider the nominations received and make an appointment to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
2. That a designated substitute also be appointed to attend the Suffolk County Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year in the event that the primary appointee is unavailable.
3. That the Leader of the Council fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. That the Leader of the Council make any necessary changes to the membership of the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.

## Strategic plan

### How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

<b>Environmental Impact</b>	None
<b>Sustainable Housing</b>	None
<b>Tackling Inequalities</b>	Representation on the Suffolk County Council Health and Scrutiny Committee ensures that East Suffolk Council has a voice on health related matters affecting residents of East Suffolk
<b>Thriving Economy</b>	None
<b>Our Foundations / governance of the organisation</b>	Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies work to help address local issues and to achieve sustainable solutions. This will help to both deliver a strong and sustainable local economy and to improve the quality of life for everyone living and working in the District.

## Justification for recommendations

### 1. Background

- 1.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked annually to consider nominations to Outside Bodies where the role relates specifically to a scrutiny function of the local authority.
- 1.2. Some appointments to Outside Bodies are made because of a statutory requirement to appoint one or more members to them. Most appointments to Outside Bodies are discretionary taking into consideration how representation on them adds value.
- 1.3. Appointment of members to Outside Bodies provides support to the organisation concerned and enables members to fulfil their community leadership roles and, in the case of scrutiny-specific bodies, their role as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4. Members appointed to Outside Bodies can work with, and alongside them, to help address local issues and deliver sustainable solutions.

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. Previously, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made appointments to two such Outside Bodies. Firstly, an appointment was usually made to the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Panel, however, East Suffolk Council had recently been notified by Suffolk County Council that the Panel had been disbanded, therefore, an appointment was no longer required for this Outside Body.
- 2.2. The second appointment was made to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee which was responsible for scrutinising wellbeing and health services across the county. It met usually four times per year.
- 2.3. In July 2023, the Committee had appointed Councillors Ed Thompson and Janet Craig as the primary appointee and nominated substitute on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
- 2.4. In relation to the 2024/25 Municipal Year, a nomination has been received for Councillor Thompson to continue in the position of primary appointee. No nominations have been received for the nominated substitute position.

### 3. Proposal

- 3.1. Outside Bodies can gain several benefits from having a representative of the council on them, these include:
  - To represent the interests of the Council and to promote the strategic aims of its Strategic Plan;
  - To provide knowledge, skills and expertise which may not otherwise be available;

- To provide local accountability or democratic legitimacy through the appointment of an elected representative;
- To ensure that good relationships can be maintained with the body;
- To deliver a partnership project that requires the input of other organisations or community groups;
- To protect the Council's investments or assets i.e., if the Council has provided grant funding or provides funding for service delivery;
- To lever in external funding which is not available to the Council on its own.

3.2 Taking account of all the information provided within the report, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to appoint a primary and nominated substitute to the Suffolk County Health Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1. Those Councillors formally appointed to external organisations as the Council's representative can claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1. There are no legal implications for this appointment.

#### **6. Risk Implications**

6.1. Members must consider the implications and responsibilities of being involved with Outside Bodies as they must continue to comply with the District Council's Code of Conduct when acting as the appointed representative of the Council; comply with the Code of Conduct of the Outside Body they are appointed to, if one exists; and, declare a Non Registerable interest in any business of the District Council as necessary.

#### **7. Options**

7.1. The Council needs and wishes to engage and work with external organisations, including the Suffolk County Health Scrutiny Committee, to continue to deliver the priorities identified in East Suffolk's Strategic Plan, Our Direction 2028.

#### **8. Recommendations**

8.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the nominations received and make an appointment to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

8.2 That a designated substitute also be appointed to attend the Suffolk County Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year in the event that the primary appointee is unavailable.

8.3 That the Leader of the Council fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8.4 That the Leader of the Council make any necessary changes to the membership of the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee 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 Outside Bodies (Scrutiny Functions) for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

**Areas of consideration comments**

**Section 151 Officer comments:**

The Section 151 Officer has no additional comments.

**Monitoring Officer comments:**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted on this report and has no additional comments.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:**

Not Applicable

**Safeguarding:**

Not applicable

**Crime and Disorder:**

Not applicable

**Corporate Services implications:**

*(i.e., Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Digital, Customer Services, Asset Management)*

Appointments to Outside Bodies may be made under the general power of competence under the Localism Act 2011.

Details of the representation on Outside Bodies are included on the Council's website.

Members appointed to Outside Bodies will be asked to present a short, written report to Full Council, at least once per year, on the work of the Outside Body.

**Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:**

Not applicable

**Appendices:**

<b>Appendix A</b>	None
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**Background reference papers:**

Date	Type	Available From
	None	