



## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 20 July 2023

<b>Subject</b>	Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2023/24 (Scrutiny Functions)
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Caroline Topping, the Leader of the Council
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Sarah Davis Democratic Services Officer <a href="mailto:sarah.davis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">sarah.davis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> 01502 523521

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the nominations for Appointments to Outside Bodies (scrutiny functions) for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, as outlined in Appendix A.

### **Options:**

The Council needs and wishes to engage and work with external organisations, including the Outside Bodies listed in Appendix A, to continue to deliver the priorities identified in the East Suffolk Strategic Plan.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Committee consider the nominations received and make appointments to those Outside Bodies listed in Appendix A for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
2. That designated substitutes also be appointed to attend the Outside Bodies listed at Appendix A for the 2023/24 Municipal Year in the event the primary appointee is unavailable.
3. That the Leader of the Council fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by the Scrutiny Committee.
4. That the Leader of the Council make any necessary changes to the membership of the Outside Bodies for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

Appointments to Outside Bodies may be made under the general power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 – to do anything which is likely to promote the economic, social, or environmental wellbeing of the area, unless specifically prohibited.

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.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

None.

### **Environmental:**

None.

### **Equalities and Diversity:**

None.

**Financial:**

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

**Human Resources:**

None.

**ICT:**

None.

**Legal:**

None.

**Risk:**

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 personal interest in any business of the District Council as necessary.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	None.
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## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</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.			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

<b>1 Background facts</b>	
1.1	The Scrutiny Committee is asked annually to consider nominations to two 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 Scrutiny Committee.
1.4	Members appointed to Outside Bodies can work with and alongside these so helping to empower them in terms of addressing local issues and delivering sustainable solutions.
<b>2 Current position</b>	
2.1	In July 2022, the Scrutiny Committee appointed Councillors Ed Back and Colin Hedgley as the primary appointee and nominated substitute on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.2	Councillors Judy Cloke and Keith Robinson were appointed as the primary appointee and nominated substitute on the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Panel.
2.3	In relation to the 2023/24 Municipal Year, two nominations have been received for the positions of primary appointee for each of the above Outside Bodies as detailed in Appendix A.
2.4	No nominations have been received for the nominated substitute position for either of the two Outside Bodies.
<b>3 How to address current situation</b>	
3.1	<p>Outside Bodies can gain several benefits from having a representative of the Council on them, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To represent the interests of the Council and to promote the strategic aims of its Strategic Plan;</li> <li>• To provide knowledge, skills and expertise which may not otherwise be available;</li> <li>• To provide local accountability or democratic legitimacy through the appointment of an elected representative;</li> <li>• To ensure that good relationships can be maintained with the body;</li> <li>• To deliver a partnership project that requires the input of other organisations or community groups;</li> <li>• To protect the Council's investments or assets i.e., if the Council has provided grant funding or provides funding for service delivery;</li> <li>• To lever in external funding which is not available to the Council on its own.</li> </ul>
3.2	Taking account of all information provided within the report, the Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the content of Appendix A.

<b>4 Reason for recommendations</b>	
4.1	To ensure that members are appointed to Outside Bodies (scrutiny functions) for 2023/24.

## Appendices

<b>Appendices:</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	List of nominations for the two Outside Bodies (scrutiny functions) for 2023/24.

<b>Background reference papers:</b>	
Review of the Outside Bodies and their membership Available from <a href="mailto:democratic.services@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">democratic.services@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>	