

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 September 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 SCOPING REPORT: TO REVIEW OUTSIDE BODIES

To review the Council's list of Appointments to Outside Bodies

1.1 Background

1.1.1 At the annual meeting of Council held on 17 May 2023 several appointments to outside bodies were confirmed and agreed. Following notification of these appointments, the Borough Council were advised of some inaccuracies in respect of the number of representatives required and the status of some of the organisations.

1.1.2 The necessary changes were brought to the meeting of Council on 11 July 2023 where it was also agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a review of appointments to outside bodies. This Scoping Report looks to consider the revised list of Appointments to Outside Bodies (attached at Annex 1) and the role of the Borough Councillors on these groups.

1.1.3 The majority of organisations on the list are based in the borough. Some organisations are located outside the borough but provide either support or services to borough residents.

1.2 Suggested focus for the review

1.2.1 Members may wish to review the role of the outside bodies to gain a better understanding of the aims and priorities of the organisations. A request could be made to each organisation to provide a short overview of their aims and objectives. This could be presented at the next meeting.

1.2.2 It may also be useful to further explore the role of the nominated Borough Councillors and how information can be brought back to the Council. Representatives could also be asked to provide a short update if this would be helpful?

1.2.3 Members will note that there are also several non-Councillors on the list. It has been accepted that these representatives have usually got local knowledge/experience and/or a previous relationship with the Council. Members

may wish to consider if this remains valuable and if feedback has been provided to the Council. There isn't currently a formal mechanism for these representatives to update the Council, which may be something that should be considered?

- 1.2.4 Most of the organisations do not receive any financial assistance from the Borough Council, however a small number on the list receive either a grant or request a payment for their services. Whilst it is not practical to invite all organisations into the meeting, it may be helpful to focus on those that receive either grants or payments to attend the next meeting. This would allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask any questions regarding their operation and consider any value for money issues.
- 1.2.5 There may be other outside bodies who have approached the Council for nominated Borough Council representatives, which Members may want to consider. In addition, the Mayor is invited to some, but not all of the organisations AGM's. Members may wish to consider the merits of this.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 Levies made by the two drainage boards in our area under the Land Drainage Act, 1991 and the Internal Drainage Boards (Finance) Regulations are as follows:

- Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board – 2023-24 levy of £227,059.67
- Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board – 2023-24 levy of £257,006.97

- 1.4.2 Organisations on the list who currently receive financial support from the Council via a grant or payment for services, are as follows:

- Citizens Advice in North and West Kent – Grant of £95,000 for 2023-24 Service Level Agreement
- High Weald AONB – £1451 for 2023-24 – formal agreement in place
- Kent Downs AONB - £4138 for 2022-23 (2023-24 invoice yet to be received) – formal agreement in place
- Maidstone Mediation Scheme – Grant of £4,320 per year for 2020-2024 Service Level Agreement. (£2,500 is also provided via the Community Safety Partnership, with funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner)
- Tonbridge & Malling Leisure Trust – No management fee, but there are financial responsibilities for the Council in relation to energy increases, pension fund increases (for staff who TUPE transferred) above a threshold.

- West Kent Partnership - £10,000 per annum staffing costs towards the West Kent Partnership Manager

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Partnerships are included on the Council's Strategic Risk Register. Where outside bodies are appointed to deliver services, formal agreements or Service Level Agreements are in place.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Business Continuity/Resilience

1.7.2 Communications

1.7.3 Community

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That Members **ENDORSE** the approach as suggested in 1.2 of the report, to undertake further evaluation of the issues raised.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Gill Fox
Policy, Scrutiny &
Communities Manager

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive