

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 11 April 2023

Governance – Outside Bodies Update

Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. That all Outside Bodies highlighted Red be removed from the list.
- b. That all Outside Bodies highlighted Amber be continually reviewed.
- c. That there is an annual review of our Outside Bodies going forward and should include a survey to each Outside Body and SCC elected members who are appointed to them.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of Councillor Alan White, Leader of the Council

Summary

What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

1. The Committee are being asked to review the list outlined in the report for the following;
 - a. That all Outside Bodies highlighted red be removed from our list. As these organisations have dissolved business.
 - b. That all Outside Bodies highlighted Amber be continually reviewed. As these are not as active as they were prior to COVID-19. A review will keep these Outside Bodies on our radar to update as often as we see fit.
 - c. That there is an annual review of our Outside Bodies going forward. This is due to a lot of the Outside Bodies within the report have been dormant for some time so this keeps us in great stead to have updated contacts should anybody leave the business.

Introduction

2. Elected Members of Staffordshire County Council can be appointed to sit on and liaise with outside bodies. These, in the main, tend to be charitable and / or community organisations who support the Council's work – usually through the priorities of the Corporate Plan. Appointments are made by the Leader of the Council at the beginning of Municipal Year.
3. There are 157 Outside Bodies which are attended by elected members from Staffordshire County Council.

Report

Background

4. At their meeting on the 12th December 2022, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report which detailed the work undertaken in relation to Local Authorities Trading Companies (LATCos) and the Elected Member Representation on Outside Bodies.
5. In relation to Outside Bodies, COSC agreed that a further report be presented to the Committee containing recommendations about which Outside Bodies should be withdrawn from member representation.

Research & Evidence

6. In September 2022, all elected members who serve on an Outside Body were requested to complete a feedback report. Members were sent the survey a total of 3 times between the 27th September and the 14th October 2022. A total of 88 responses were received by 26 elected members.
7. Starting from October 2022 and ending in March 2023 contact was made with all Outside Bodies to confirm they were still active and that the contact we had was the correct point of contact for us should we have any issues.
8. This went on over so many months due to the contacts list being extremely outdated and having to research the Outside Bodies in order to find up to date details as well as waiting for the responses. Responses came in slowly for the majority of Outside Bodies. We found that some Outside Bodies had been dissolved for a number of years.
9. After persistent chasing we were waiting on 3 responses. These 3 outstanding responses have now been added to our 'Amber' list so that

we can understand whether these Outside Bodies are still active. The 3 left to respond are listed below:

- a. Newcastle Family Improvement Board
- b. Lichfield Safer Neighbourhood Forums
- c. Victoria History of the Counties of England

Analysis of Results

- 10. The dataset from the results can be found at Appendix A. A summary of the findings can be seen at
- 11.
- 12. Table 1.
- 13. As can be seen, through researching the Outside Bodies we have been able to establish that 21 Outside Bodies have been dissolved and no longer operate.

Table 1 – Summary of Results

RAG Status	Definition	Without Substitutes	Including Substitute Members*
Green	Active	87	124
Amber	TBC	5	9
Red	Dissolved	21	24
		113	157

* Some Outside Bodies have multiple appointments

Community Impact

- 14. None applicable

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix A - 2023 Outside Bodies List

Contact Details

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