

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **21 April 2022**
Title: **Outside Bodies – Annual Report**
Portfolio Area: **Leader – Cllr Judy Pearce**
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Immediately following this meeting**

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RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of the Annual Report (as set out at Appendix A) be noted.

1. Executive summary

1.1 This Annual Report presents an update on each of the Outside Bodies to which the Council made Member appointments for 2021/22 at its Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2021 (Minute 18/21 refers).

2. Background

2.1 At its meeting held on 25 February 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee established an Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group that was charged with scrutinising the means of reporting back to the Council and to evaluate the benefit to the Council of it being represented on these Outside Bodies (Minute O&S.42/20 refers);

2.2 The Task and Finish Group presented its concluding report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 April 2021 (Minute O&S.54/20 refers). One of the review findings (that was subsequently approved by the Committee) was that:

'As part of its Annual Work Programme deliberations, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to schedule an Annual Report on the performance of each of the Outside Bodies to which the

Council has made appointment(s). This Annual Report to be considered early in the Calendar Year in order that the Council has the opportunity to consider the value of re-appointing to each Outside Body at the Annual Council meeting in May. In making this recommendation, the Group has stated that appointed representatives will need to report more frequently when Outside Bodies are to make decisions (or have discussions) about matters deemed of significance / relevance / importance to the Council.'

- 2.3 Of the 23 Outside Bodies to which the Council appointed for 2021/22, it has been ascertained that it was either a statutory or constitutional requirement to appoint a Member representative on each.
- 2.4 To assist in the production of this Annual Report, an email was sent to all Members who serve on Outside Bodies during 2021/22 that posed the following three questions:
1. How many times has each Outside Body met since May 2021?
 2. How many times did the Council's appointed representative(s) attend? And
 3. How many reports were received and circulated?
- 2.5 The Member responses to these three questions are set out in Appendix A.
- 2.5 Whilst the appropriateness of the Member appointments to each of these Outside Bodies is not within the scope of this Annual Report (it is a function of Annual Council), the findings and feedback from Members will help to inform the deliberations (e.g. the response from the Member representative on the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group will ensure that this Outside Body is removed from the list at the Annual Council meeting to be held on 19 May 2022 at which appointments will be made for the 2022/23 Municipal Year).

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the Annual Report (as set out at Appendix A).

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 There is a risk that those Members who are appointed to serve on Outside Bodies may find themselves in positions where interests conflict potentially damaging both their own and the Council's reputation. To mitigate this risk, Members are encouraged to contact the Council's Monitoring Officer.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The Council Constitution requires the Council to approve the list of (and subsequent appointments to) Outside Bodies.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	There will be no financial implications linked to this report.
Risk	Y	The risk implications are set out at Section 4 above.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	Council Theme – <i>Efficient and effective</i>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	N/A
Climate Change & Biodiversity	N	N/A
Safeguarding	N	N/A
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	N/A
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	N/A
Other implications	N	None

Appendices:

A: Outside Bodies – Annual Report

Background Documents:

Outside Bodies Review Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference