

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 December 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Review of Outside Bodies
REPORT NUMBER	COM/21/317
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie, Director of Commissioning
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell, Chief Officer - Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Martyn Orchard
TERMS OF REFERENCE	21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the updated policy on appointments of elected members to outside bodies for approval, and an update on progress with the latest review of outside bodies and various proposals arising from the review.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

- 2.1 approves the updated policy on appointments of elected members to outside bodies as appended to the report;
- 2.2 notes the position regarding the review of outside bodies, as contained within paragraph 3.4, and agrees to receive an update as part of the report on the Scheme of Governance review at Council on 28 February 2022;
- 2.3 notes that work will continue ahead of elected member appointments being sought post-election in May 2022, to ensure that outside bodies meet the requirements of the updated policy;
- 2.4 notes the position regarding Robert Gordon's College Board of Governors, as contained within paragraph 3.5;
- 2.5 notes the position regarding the Violence Against Women Forum as contained within paragraph 3.6, and agrees to remove the outside body from the list of outside bodies with immediate effect; and
- 2.6 notes the position regarding Sport Aberdeen, as contained within paragraph 3.8 and agrees that no replacement appointment be made at this time.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2017, a policy on appointments of elected members to outside bodies was developed which aimed to set out the criteria on which Aberdeen City Council would appoint elected members to outside bodies and provided guidance on elected members' roles and responsibilities once appointed. The policy was approved at the meeting of Full Council on 23 August 2017. At the same time, a review of the outside bodies which the Council appoints elected members to was undertaken against the policy which resulted in a reduced list being presented post-election in May 2017.
- 3.2 At the Full Council meeting of 2 March 2020, the Council instructed the Chief Officer - Governance to carry out a further review of outside bodies ahead of the local government elections in 2022 and thereafter report back to Full Council with any proposals as required.
- 3.3. As part of this further review, the policy adopted in 2017 was reviewed as a matter of good practice. Other than conversion to a new corporate template, the policy on appointments of elected members to outside bodies required minimal changes. As part of the corporate template, new sections have been added, particularly in relation to risk. In addition, the section on Conflicts of Interest has been updated to take account of the new Councillors' Code of Conduct which no longer refers to Specific Exclusions; and to reflect that outside body appointments will (not may) require to be entered in the Register of Interests. However, the substance of the policy remains unchanged, and it is recommended that members approve the updated policy.
- 3.4 The outside bodies the Council currently appoints elected members to have been contacted to ascertain whether they still desire elected member representation. Twenty outside bodies are still to respond. These outside bodies have been contacted again noting that the Council may wish to remove the bodies from the Council's list of outside bodies. An update will be provided as part of the report on the Scheme of Governance review to Council on 28 February 2022.
- 3.5 Representatives of Robert Gordon's College Board of Governors have advised that they are reviewing their constitution and will be applying to OSCR to modernise and amend their Board composition. The proposal would reduce the overall size, reducing appointees and increasing co-optees, and that as part of this exercise they would be looking to cease Aberdeen City Council representation on their Board once the relevant approvals had been received by OSCR.
- 3.6 Representatives of the Violence Against Women Forum have advised that they no longer require elected member representation on the Forum. As such, it is recommended that the Violence Against Women Forum be removed from the list of outside bodies with immediate effect.
- 3.7 In addition, the Aberdeen International Youth Festival Trust has been dissolved. As a result, the Trust has been removed from the list of outside bodies.

3.8 In October 2021, Councillor Imrie resigned from her position as a Director on the Board of Sport Aberdeen. Given the small number of Board meetings between now and the local government election, and the amount of time it would take to get a replacement approved, inducted and familiar with their statutory duties under the Companies Act 2006, it is proposed that the Council does not appoint an elected member replacement for Councillor Imrie at this time.

3.9 The proposals contained within this report are consistent with the Policy on Appointments of Elected Members to Outside Bodies.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	N/A		
Compliance	Failure to submit this report would mean that the Council would not be complying with its instruction to report on the outcome of a further review of outside bodies.	L	Council is given the opportunity to consider the report and provide feedback on any of the proposals contained therein.
Operational	N/A		
Financial	N/A		
Reputational	It is prudent that links with external organisations are reviewed. Failure to do so could cause reputational damage for both parties, if, for example, the Council	L	Progression with a regular review and reporting on the outcome of that review, as well as a review of the policy which underpins the process.

	was to seek appointments to an organisation that no longer existed, or such appointment was not consistent with the policy on appointments to outside bodies		
Environment / Climate	N/A		

7. OUTCOMES

The proposals in this report have no direct impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appointment of Elected Members to Outside Bodies Policy

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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