

County Council



Report on work of Outside Bodies 17/18

Thursday 17 May 2018

Report of the Deputy Leader

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work of Council appointees on outside bodies in 17/18.

In April 2016 the Council's Regulatory and Audit Committee agreed a new protocol on outside bodies. This protocol is published online and provides guidance to Members on expectations about their roles, details of the annual appointment process and reporting process to Council. For further details on the protocol see here:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s84972/Outside%20Bodies%20Procedure.pdf>

Outside Bodies Overview

The Council makes appointments to outside bodies that have organisational objectives that the Council supports and where there are areas of mutual interest. The purpose of the appointments is to assist these organisations and support effective communications with the Council.

As outlined in the Council's Constitution, appointments to outside bodies are made by the Council's executive by the Leader. Currently, these appointments are delegated to the Deputy Leader. The Deputy Leader makes appointments annually normally in May/June.

The Council makes appointments to sit on outside bodies based on merit. Appointees are not expected to 'represent' the County Council but are rather appointed based on an expectation that they will apply their skills and experience in the best interests of the group to which they are appointed to.

Whilst each outside body is unique, the following role description is applicable to all appointees of the Council on outside bodies:

- To champion the interests of the people of Buckinghamshire on the outside body.
- To attend, generally, all meetings of the outside body as required.
- To understand, underpinned by appropriate experience or knowledge, the purpose and work of the outside body.
- To annually report on the work of the outside body to all Members of Council, as well as throughout the year as required to Committees and Members.



- To understand the procedure for dealing with conflicts between their own interests, those of the Council and those of the outside body.
- To have an appropriate understanding of any regulatory framework that affects the outside body, operating within the rules of the outside body at all times.
- To have or gain the skills needed to properly fulfil his or her role in the outside body.
- To behave ethically and follow the Council's Member Code of Conduct.
- To inform Democratic Services if they wish to resign from their role on the outside body.

Feedback 2017/18

Full details about outside bodies are published on the Council's website. See here: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1>. Appendix 1 sets out the list of appointees to Council outside bodies in 2017/18.

Members on outside bodies were invited to complete a short annual feedback survey to gain an overview of experiences and report back to Council.

Key survey findings are:

- 20 Members sat on 55 outside bodies in 2017/18.
- In total Members attended 186 meetings of outside bodies in 2017/18.
- In total Members dedicated over 1000 hours of service to support the work of outside bodies in 2017/18.
- 91% of respondents felt that their contribution was valuable to support the work of outside bodies.

In response to a question on what Members most valued or enjoyed about being on an outside body, comments included:

- *Enjoyed networking and understanding the different ways to tackle issues*
- *The ability to bring my business expertise to the trust and seeing the trust move forward in a positive way*
- *Improving collaboration between the bodies and BCC. Assisting with improving the effectiveness of the bodies.*
- *Ability to influence key strategic decisions affecting Buckinghamshire*
- *Learning about some of the wider work we do at BCC and also taking that information back to residents at parish council meetings. It is also a good chance to have a deep dive into one area as much of our work as members is more in the "all-rounder" vein.*

Recommendation

- 1. Council is asked to NOTE this report.**

**MARK SHAW
DEPUTY LEADER**