



## Report on work of Outside Bodies 2018/19

Thursday 23 May 2019

### 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 2018/19.

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/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1>.

#### **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 2018/19**

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 2018/19.

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:

- 21 Members sat on 60 outside bodies in 2018/19.
- In total Members attended approximately 220 meetings of outside bodies in 2018/19 which was an increase on 2017/18 of approximately 10%.
- In total Members dedicated over 1100 hours of service to support the work of outside bodies in 2018/19.
- 89% of respondents felt that their contribution was valuable to support the work of outside bodies.
- 95% of respondents rated their role and work as an appointee on the Outside Body as very important or important and 97% wanted to continue as an appointee.

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

- *I have enjoyed understanding the differing requirements and representing the council and hopefully making a valuable contribution.*
- *I enjoy making a difference and contributing to this important trust.*
- *I have enjoyed networking and understanding the different ways to tackle issues*
- *Improved collaboration between the bodies and BCC.*
- *I enjoyed assisting with improving the effectiveness of the organisation.*
- *It was extremely important to contribution to consultations*
- *Ability to influence key strategic decisions affecting Buckinghamshire*
- *Extremely valuable and critical*
- *With so many changes in the making, I feel it is absolutely essential that BCC be well represented on these committees.*
- *It has been interesting time to see the change and the development of a positive addition within the town. A positive step forward.*

**Recommendation**

1. Council is asked to NOTE this report.

**MARK SHAW  
DEPUTY LEADER**