

WIRRAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

21 MAY 2012

SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES; AND MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS 2012/2013
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to request the Council to appoint members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2012/2013. The membership of the various bodies in 2011/2012 is set out in the Appendix.

2.0 STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The following statutory committees and panels, all of which have full delegated authority, were retained during 2011/2012.

2.1 CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

(i). **Complaints Panel (School Curriculum and Related Matters)**

To hear and determine complaints about curriculum delivery in schools and related matters as required by statute.

(ii). **Education Staff Panel**

- (1) In relation to schools not subject to a scheme of delegation, to hear and determine appeals arising out of the procedure for the dismissal of teachers as contained in the regulations governing their appointment and conditions of service.
- (2) To determine appeals by teachers against proposals to dismiss made by the Director of Children's Services under the Education (Teachers) Regulations 1993, or as subsequently amended or re-enacted.

(iii). **Headteacher Appointments Panel**

To participate in and approve the appointment of headteachers of schools not subject to a scheme of delegation.

(iv). School Appeals Panel

To consider, as part of a statutory review process, appeals against decisions by the Local Authority (or the Governors of voluntary or aided schools) concerning the allocation of places in primary and secondary schools, and decisions by governing bodies concerning the exclusion of pupils.

The School Appeals Panel is drawn from a “pool” of lay members or members with experience in education. However, Councillors are ineligible to serve on Appeals Panels for schools under local authority control.

(v). Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE)

SACRE is responsible for advising the local authority on matters concerning the teaching of religious education and collective acts of worship; it decides on applications for determination of cases in which requirements for Christian collective worship are not to apply; and may require the local authority to review its agreed syllabus.

(vi). Wirral Schools Forum (Funding Consultative Group)

The Forum makes recommendations in respect of the allocation of funding for schools, in particular the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) received from the DCSF. Any changes to the distribution formula for DSG, plus any additional specific funding proposed by the local authority, must be approved by the Schools Forum. With recent changes in the composition of the Forum, the Council’s three representatives act only as observers.

(vii). School Admissions Forum

The role of the Forum is to consider local admission arrangements and seek agreement on how to deal with difficult admission issues in consultation with admission authorities.

(viii). Wirral Children’s Trust Board

This has a variety of responsibilities including to co-ordinate services for children and young people; to identify the needs of Wirral children and young people in terms of the five outcomes in the Children Act 2004; to determine the strategies required to improve the outcomes for children’s well-being; to make recommendations to the Council and other partner organisations with respect to the measures that are needed to improve children’s well-being; and to recommend joint commissioning strategies and, where appropriate be responsible for pooled budget arrangements.

(ix). Adoption / Fostering Panels

(The Adoption Panel member should be either a member of the Executive or of the Children and Young People O&S Committee)

As part of a wider membership, to determine applications for the adoption and for the fostering of children.

2.2 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

(i). Housing Review Panel

- (1) To consider and determine requests made by individual tenants in accordance with the provisions of Section 129 of the Housing Act 1996 for a review of the Authority's decision to seek an order for possession.
- (2) To consider and determine requests made by a person or persons in accordance with the provisions of Section 202 of the Housing Act 1996 for a review of certain decisions made by the Authority in relation to homelessness.
- (3) To consider and determine requests made by a person or persons in accordance with Section 164 of the Housing Act 1996 for a review of the Authority's decision either to remove or not to place that person's or persons' name(s) on the housing register.

(ii). Unified Waiting List Management Advisory Board

To consider appeals from applicants who consider they have been unfairly treated or unfairly excluded from the waiting list, having exhausted the Steering Group appeals procedure.

2.3 SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION

Discharge from Guardianship by Wirral Council under the Mental Health Act 1983 Panel (Panel of Members to be drawn from Councillors on the Health and Well Being O&S Committee)

To hear requests to discharge service users subject to guardianship upon the application of a professional responsible for their care.

2.4 CORPORATE SERVICES

Independent Remuneration Panel

To make recommendations to the Council on Members' remuneration and allowances and any proposals for amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

3.0 ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

The following is a list of advisory and consultative bodies that were retained or created in 2011/2012 to assist the Cabinet and overview and scrutiny committees in their work. The Council may wish to make appointments directly to some or all of them, or alternatively, to ask the relevant overview and scrutiny committee to express a view as to whether all of these bodies need to be retained or whether their role could be undertaken by the O & S committee itself. For those bodies that are retained, it is suggested that they report to the relevant committee or O & S committee.

3.1 CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

(i). Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

To support and monitor the youth and play services provided by the local authority and other agencies and to make appropriate recommendations.

(ii). Corporate Parenting Group (formerly known as Virtual School Governing Body)

This acts as the governing body of a virtual school, whose roll comprises all of the children that are looked after by the local authority, with particular emphasis on improving their well-being, educational attainment and attendance.

(iii). Headteachers and Teachers JCC

To meet with headteachers' and teachers' representatives to discuss educational issues.

(iv). SEN Advisory Committee

To advise the Council on any future plans for the development of special educational needs provision in the borough.

(v). Wirral Schools' Music Service Consultative Committee

To represent the views of key stakeholders in the Music Service; to act as a forum for the continuing development of the service; to offer recommendations to the Director of Children's Services; to inform and be accountable to the local authority; and to uphold the right of all young people in the borough to have the opportunity of access to quality music-making activities.

3.2 CORPORATE RESOURCES

(i). Members' Training Steering Group

To advise on the preparation of the annual programme of training for Council members and on individual applications to attend courses.

(ii). Members' Equipment Steering Group

To review IT equipment provision for members.

3.3 CULTURE, TOURISM AND LEISURE

(i). Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee

To advise the Council on all issues relating to and affecting Birkenhead Park, and in particular on the regeneration project.

(ii). Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee

To manage the nature reserve and to make appropriate recommendations for its preservation and maintenance.

3.4 ENVIRONMENT

Wirral Climate Change Group

To achieve the adopted target of a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025 through the reporting structure of the Wirral Wide Carbon Reduction Delivery Plan, together with the implementation of the Community Carbon Reduction Programme (CRed), working with residents, communities and both the public and private sectors to help achieve their own CO2 reduction.

3.5 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Body

This has an advisory role on matters of tackling anti-social behaviour (covering awareness, prevention, enforcement and resettlement); promoting the Government's Respect Action Area agenda; overseeing the co-ordination of allied and related services across the Borough; and promoting good practice in the fields of anti-social behaviour and community safety.

3.6 REGENERATION AND PLANNING STRATEGY

(i). Birkenhead Town Centre Consultative Group

In view of the complexity of matters relating to the development of Birkenhead town centre and the pace at which certain issues might evolve, it was felt useful to have a consultative group at which elected members could inform and be informed by officers as negotiations progressed.

(ii). Wirral Trade Centre Working Party (1:1:1)

At its meeting on 16 April 2012, the Council (minute 154 refers) called on the three Parties to agree membership for a Member Working Party in the ratio 1:1:1, reporting to the Economy and Regeneration O&S Committee. The Working Party will scope a project leading to recommendations to ensure the Council and its partners are Trade Centre Ready and able to embrace all opportunities for development through its growing links with China and other countries and that potential barriers to businesses and investors are identified and recommendations made as to how these can be overcome.

3.7 CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LIFELONG LEARNING / SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION

Safeguarding Reference Group

Established by Cabinet on 15 April 2010 for the purpose of ensuring that the most senior community leaders of the Council are enabled to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding children and adults in Wirral.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution that the Annual Council meeting shall appoint Members to various panels, advisory committees and working parties.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 No other options were considered beyond those outlined in the report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their committee places.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The Annual Meeting of the Council is requested to:

- (1) appoint members and named deputies, as necessary, to serve on the statutory committees, panels and other bodies identified in paragraph 2.0 above (including Chairs);
- (2) make appointments to advisory committees, working parties and consultative groups identified in paragraph 3.0 above (or, alternatively, to seek the views of the relevant overview and scrutiny committees concerning their retention);
- (3) confirm that, where appropriate, the minutes of the statutory committees and panels, advisory committees and other bodies be submitted to the

relevant overview and scrutiny committees for information, with any matters requiring an executive decision being referred to the Cabinet as necessary;

- (4) to note the current constitution and membership of the School Appeals Panel.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 14.1 This Annual Meeting of the Council is required to appoint the membership of various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties.

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APPENDICES

Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels Membership
2011/2012

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Previous reports on the appointment of panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties and amendments made during the year and the Council's Constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	16 May 2011
Council	17 May 2010
Council	18 May 2009
Cabinet	12 May 2009
Council	22 May 2008
Council	20 May 2008
Council	19 May 2008
Cabinet	14 May 2008