

WIRRAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

19 MAY 2015

SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES; AND MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS 2015/2016
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF LEGAL AND MEMBER SERVICES
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 2015/2016. The membership of the various bodies in 2014/2015 is set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The schedule attached at Appendix 1 has been updated to reflect the current statutory committees / panels etc. to which Members are required to be appointed to for 2015/16.

2.0 STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The following statutory committees and panels, all of which have full delegated authority, were retained during 2014/2015.

2.1 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- (i). **Discharge from Guardianship by Wirral Council under the Mental Health Act 1983 Panel** (Panel of Members to be drawn from Councillors on the Policy and Performance – Families and Wellbeing Committee)

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

(ii). **Health and Wellbeing Board**

To work across professional and agency boundaries to drive innovation make a difference to the health and wellbeing of local people by;

- agreeing priorities and actions to reduce health inequalities and promote health and wellbeing
- developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- developing a framework for the effective performance monitoring of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- discussing and evaluating joint performance

2.2 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

(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 the 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 to schools and academies from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) received from the DfE. The Forum must be consulted on any changes to Schools and Early Years funding formulae, arrangements for the education of pupils with special educational needs and funding to meet statutory duties or other agreed commitments. In the composition of the Forum, the Council's three representatives act only as observers.

(vii). 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.

(viii). Adoption / Fostering Panels

(The Adoption Panel member should be either a member of the Executive or of the Policy and Performance – Families and Wellbeing Committee)

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

2.3 SUPPORT SERVICES

Independent Remuneration Panel (Four persons who are not members of the Council and who are not disqualified from being a member)

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 2014/2015 to assist the Cabinet and Policy and Performance Committees in their work. The Council may wish to make appointments directly to some or all of them, or alternatively, to ask the relevant Policy and Performance 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 P & P Committee itself. For those bodies that are retained, it is suggested that they report to the relevant Committee or P & P Committee.

3.1 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

(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

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.

(iii). Safeguarding Reference Group

Established by Council on 15 December, 2014 (minute 99 refers) the purpose of the Safeguarding Reference Group will be to ensure that the most senior leaders of the Council, through its leading Members and Chief Executive, are informed about key safeguarding issues in order to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding Children and Adults in Wirral. This proposal follows the consideration of findings from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham.

(v). Wirral Schools' Music Service Consultative Committee

(This Consultative Committee no longer sits as it has been superseded by governance arrangements required for the joint music hub with Cheshire West and Chester Musical Routes).

3.2 ECONOMY

(i). Wirral Trade Centre Working Party

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. The Working Party reports to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance 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.

(ii). Birkenhead Business Improvement District Steering Group

At its meeting on 10 April, 2014, Cabinet (minute 185 refers) agreed to support the Wirral Chamber of Commerce in drawing up proposals relating to the establishment of a Birkenhead BID. BIDs are a tried and tested method of regenerating town centres, commercial districts and some tourism zones.

3.3 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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.

3.4 GOVERNANCE, COMMISSIONING AND IMPROVEMENT

(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.

3.5 LEISURE, SPORT AND CULTURE

(i). Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee

To advise the Council on all issues relating to and affecting Birkenhead Park.

(ii). Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee

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

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 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

None

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report

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

9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 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 policy and performance 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 policy and performance 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.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 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

1. Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels Membership 2014/2015

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	9 June 2014
Council	20 May 2013
Council	14 May 2012