



ANNUAL COUNCIL

17 MAY 2016

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES; AND MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS 2016/2017
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF LEGAL AND MEMBER SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

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 2016/2017. The membership of the various bodies in 2015/2016 is set out in Appendix 1.

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 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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 3.0 below (including Chairs);
- (2) make appointments to advisory committees, working parties and consultative groups identified in paragraph 4.0 below (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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The following statutory committees and panels, all of which have full delegated authority, were retained during 2015/2016.

3.1 ADULT 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

3.2 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(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

(Appointments no longer required following changes in regulations – Members may be invited to sit on the Adoption or Fostering Panels as members of the Corporate Parenting Group)

3.3 RESOURCES: FINANCE, ASSETS AND TECHNOLOGY

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.

4.0 ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

The following is a list of advisory and consultative bodies that were retained or created in 2015/2016 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.

4.1 BUSINESS AND TOURISM

(i). Wirral Trade Centre Working Party

(Appointments no longer required).

(ii). Birkenhead Business Improvement District Board

As this Board has now been formally established and is managed by the Wirral Chamber of Commerce, appointments to this body are listed under appointments to Outside Bodies.

4.2 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(i). Young People's Advisory Group

To act as a forum for young people to raise their issues and concerns with local elected members, showcasing youth work delivery across the four constituencies of Wirral.⁴

(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). Schools' JCC (formerly Headteachers and Teachers JCC)

To meet with teachers and school 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.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

4.4 LEISURE 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.

4.5 TRANSFORMATION 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.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 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.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

1. Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels Membership 2015/2016

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	19 May 2015
Council	9 June 2014
Council	20 May 2013