



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 10 November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	HILBRE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

In September 2021 the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee considered a report reviewing the continuing need for the Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee and if necessary to appoint Members, and possibly named deputies, to serve on it in 2021/2022.

Due to a lack of consensus, the Committee agreed that the matter be taken to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Policy & Resources Committee is asked to consider the request from the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Committee is required to appoint the membership of various advisory committees which fall under its remit at the start of each Municipal Year. The members for the Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee were to be appointed by the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee who referred it to this Committee as it fell within this Committee's terms of reference.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Potential options which the Committee could consider, and potential consequences, include:
- 2.1.1 Not being involved in the Management Committee on either an officer or Member level, although it does provide an opportunity for stakeholders to meet to discuss issues with Council officers and Members regarding the island.
- 2.1.2 Not include Members on the Management Committee, although the inclusion of Members allows the Committee to ensure that any developments are in line with the wider aims of the Council. The Management Committee could also continue in the absence of Councillors.
- 2.1.3 A less formal Members focus or working group, which the Management Committee could report into.
- 2.1.4 To vary the numbers of Members. That is a decision to be made by this Committee and would then require a change to the Council's Constitution. A politically proportionate number would be: 3 Labour, 2 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Green, 1 Independent.
- 2.1.5 Other options have been considered as reported within the minutes of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee and appended report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Background information is set out within the appended report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution to appoint Members to various panels, advisory committees and working parties which fall within the remit of each Committee. The meeting of full Council on 26 May 2021 resolved to delegate responsibility for this to individual Committees.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report as the Management Committee is arranged and serviced using existing staff resources.
- 6.2 If any of the options in section 2 were progressed this may increase the resource implications.

7.0 Relevant Risks

- 7.1 As this is a non-statutory Management Committee, the only risk identified from the recommendation was reputational, if the Management Committee acted in a way contrary to the wider aims of this Committee and the Council, or if the Council chose not to be a part of the Management Committee.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their Management Committee places.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising directly from this report, although the Management Committee could assist in implementing any Council policies on climate change where Hilbre Island was involved.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no implications for Community Wealth arising directly from the appointments.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Minute extract
Appendix 2 Hilbre Island Full report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Council's Constitution.
The Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Plan

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
COUNCIL	28 September, 2020
COUNCIL	19 May 2019
COUNCIL	15 May 2018