



## **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 7 September 2021**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT TO HILBRE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to enable the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to review 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.

This is not a Key Decision and has no direct Ward implications.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is requested 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**

- 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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The existence of the Management Committee stems from the Management Plan which states: The Friends group and other partners are involved in management decisions affecting the islands through the Hilbre Islands Management Committee.
- 3.2 The Management Committee is made up of elected members, council officers, Hilbre Bird Observatory, leaseholders and The Friends of Hilbre Islands, Archaeological group and the Island's residents (holiday homes).
- 3.3 The Management Committee make recommendations and highlight possible priorities. As Hilbre sits in a Site of Special Scientific Interest, many agencies have regulatory control over the area and proposals have to be mindful of legal obligations. Any recommendations are passed to Parks and Countryside officers

who manage the island and provide required funding. It usually met every 3-4 times a year before the COVID pandemic but has not met since.

3.5 The membership for 2020/2021, for information, was:

Councillor Christina Muspratt  
Councillor Jerry Williams  
Councillor Tony Cox  
Councillor Jeff Green  
Councillor Andrew Hodson  
Councillor Alison Wright  
Councillor Allan Brame  
Councillor Andy Corkhill

3.6 On 16 June 2021 the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee considered appointments to the Management Committee and resolved: 'That a report on the continuance and composition of the Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee be referred to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee for consideration since it more naturally falls within that Committee's terms of reference which include responsibility for the Council's duties as coastal protection authority. Pending consideration of this matter by that Committee the membership of the Management Committee shall remain as presently constituted in respect of those persons who are Members of the Council; any vacancies to be appointed by the Monitoring Officer who shall carry out the wishes of the Group Leader of the former Member.'

#### **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.

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Council's Constitution.

The Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Plan

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minute 11</b>	<b>16 June 2021</b>
<b>Council (APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS TO OTHER BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS)</b>	<b>28 September 2020</b>
<b>Council (APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES; AND MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS 2019 / 2020)</b>	<b>14 May 2019</b>