

**Public**  
**Key Decision – No**

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Representation on Organisations

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet – 16th June 2022

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Leader

**Report by:** Democratic Services Officer

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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**Executive Summary:**

The Council's representation on a variety of organisations and partnerships is now reviewed every four years in accordance with the electoral cycle for District Councillors. In June 2018, the Elections and Democratic Services Manager had been given delegated authority, after consultation with the Deputy Executive Leader, to nominate and authorise any changes or new appointments to the District Council's representation during the course of the four year term to May 2022. It is proposed that a similar approach is adopted for the current four year term.

A full review of the organisations to which the District Council appoints to was undertaken in March/April 2022. Listed in the attached schedule, Appendix 1, are those organisations/partnerships to which it is proposed that the Council appoints representatives for 2022/23 until 2025/26. These appointments are important to ensure the Council is efficient and effective on how it spends time, resources and influences outcomes. Arising from the review, the complexities around the differing governance arrangements relating to Internal Drainage Boards has been highlighted and it proposed that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel should incorporate this into its work programme for 2022/23.

**Recommendations:**

That the Cabinet:

- (a) appoint to the organisations and partnerships referred to in Appendix 1;
- (b) agree to not appoint to those organisations and partnerships as indicated in Appendix 1;
- (c) request the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance & Growth) to undertake a review of the governance arrangements in place for the various Internal Drainage Boards to which the Council appoints to; and
- (d) in the event that change or new appointments are required to the District Council's representation during the course of the four year term, the

Elections and Democratic Services Manager be delegated, after consultation with the Executive Leader, Deputy Executive Leader and Assistant Leader to nominate and authorise alternative representatives as necessary.

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For the Cabinet to make appointments to the organisations/partnerships referred to in Appendix 1.

## 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's representation on a variety of organisations and partnerships is now reviewed every four years in accordance with the electoral cycle for District Councillors. Where there is a change of circumstances, a Member resigns, or if there is a vacancy on a body which arises during this time, it is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Elections and Democratic Services Manager, after consultation with the Executive Leader, Deputy Executive Leader and Assistant Leader to make any changes to the District Council's representation.
- 2.2 A full review of the organisations to which the District Council appoints to was undertaken in March/April 2022. The review sought views from external organisations, District Council appointed representatives and HDC Officers on whether the Council should continue to appoint to these organisations, how they contribute to the Council and its corporate objectives and whether there was any scope for the Council to nominate non-HDC Councillors to the organisation (for e.g. a former HDC Councillor, an Officer or another local Councillor/community representative).
- 2.3 Arising from the review, the complexities around the differing governance arrangements relating to Internal Drainage Boards has been highlighted and it is proposed that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel should lead on a piece of work to this effect in 2022/23. Whilst this work is being undertaken, the Council should continue to appoint to these groups in the meantime.
- 2.4 The table below summarises the organisations that have confirmed non-HDC Councillors can be appointed as the District Council's representative. It is up to the Cabinet to decide how they wish to appoint to these organisations.

Partnership/Organisation	Commentary provided by Partnership/Organisation
Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce – Huntingdonshire Chamber	Section 8 of the Articles of Association states "Membership shall be open to (a) individuals who are in business on their own account, (b) companies corporations firms and other organisations engaged or interested in commerce industry trade services transport and education, (c) members of professions who have an interest in commerce industry trade

	services transport and education, (d) any other individuals, companies, corporations, firms or other organisations whom the Board may in its absolute discretion admit to membership”.
Envar Ltd, St Ives Composting Facility – Site Liaison Forum	“We would be happy with whomever you found suitable to attend.”
Huntingdon Freeman’s Trust	“Do not have to be an elected Councillor, can be a community representative with an interest in being a trustee.”
Kimbolton School Foundation Trustees	“Yes”.
Town Centre Management Initiatives/ Partnerships/ Management Team – BID Huntingdon	“Yes”.
Alconbury & Ellington – Internal Drainage Board	“Yes - certainly scope for HDC to nominate non-councillors onto the Board. The Board are keen that HDC appoint Parish Councillors as well as other non HDC Councillors to take up their full entitlement of 13 members on the Board.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Middle Level Commissioners</li> <li>▪ Benwick – Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Bluntisham Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Conington &amp; Holme – Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Ramsey First (Hollow) – Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Ramsey Fourth (Middle Moor) – Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Ramsey, Upwood &amp; Great Raveley – Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Sawtry - Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Sutton &amp; Mepal – Internal Drainage Board</li> </ul>	“The Council appointments should represent the non-agricultural area ratepayers within the District (Local Levy). These are not political appointments but to ensure representation of all stakeholders in the relevant Board’s District. The Board does not have any control over these appointments and as such the Council can make appointments as they see fit to ensure they have the most appropriate representative on the Board”.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warboys, Somersham &amp; Pidley – Internal Drainage Board</li> </ul>	
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2.5 Listed in Appendix 1 are those organisations and partnerships that the Council appointed representatives to for 2021/22 and those that require appointment to for 2022/23 until 2025/26. Those that the Cabinet are requested to no longer appoint to are indicated as ‘Propose Delete’ on the attached Appendix. The table below provides a summary as to why this is being proposed. However, this does not preclude the Cabinet from deciding to not appoint to other organisations and partnerships.

<b>Partnership/Organisation Proposed for Deletion</b>	<b>Why</b>
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership	HDC Officer has confirmed that the HCSP forms part of the Huntingdonshire Placed Based Board and still has statutory duties within its own right.
Little Gransden Aerodrome Consultative Committee (known as Cambridge Gliding Club Consultative Committee)	HDC Member representative has confirmed that the local parish councils have taken ownership of issues along with South Cambridgeshire District Council. SCDC will contact HDC if any planning issues arose.
Local Water Forum	HDC Member representative and Officers have confirmed they have never met or are aware of this organisation.
Oxmoor Community Action Group (OCAG)	Confirmation has been received from local Members that this group is no longer functioning.

2.6 For the sake of transparency the list includes those appointments that are the responsibility of the Licensing and Protection Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships). It also includes the appointments made annually by Council relating to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

2.7 As the Leader of the Council and Member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Board, Cllr S J Conboy may appoint a nominee in her place to the following 4 Executive Committees of the CPCA which must be appointed formally via the CPCA Board. Appendix 1 outlines the nominations made by the Leader for Cabinet Members to note.

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority – Employment Committee
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority – Housing and Communities Committee
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority – Skills Committee
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority – Transport and Infrastructure Committee

2.8 The number of meetings held each year by these organisations and partnerships varies and in accepting these appointments Members are required to endeavour to attend each meeting, in order to fully represent the Council.

2.9 Previously, it was agreed that appointed Members should be required to report on an annual basis in writing, to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel. This was undertaken in 2019 and 2020, however it was subsequently agreed that this should no longer be undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny as the appointments made were accountable to the Executive Leader/Cabinet.

2.10 This report will next be reviewed by the Cabinet following the next District, Town and Parish Council elections in 2026.

### **3. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

3.1 Appointing to the various organisations and partnerships will contribute to the following elements of the Corporate Plan:

- Support people to improve their health and well-being.
- Develop stronger and more resilient communities to enable people to help themselves.
- Create, protect and enhance our safe and clean built and green environment.
- Accelerate business growth and investment.
- Support development of infrastructure to enable growth.
- Improve the supply of new and affordable housing jobs and community facilities to meet current and future need.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 To ensure that the Council's representation remain appropriate and added value, all external organisations, appointed District Council representatives and HDC Officers were invited to comment on the list of proposed appointments for 2022/23 onwards.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Members appointed to represent the Council on any organisations/partnerships are entitled to claim travel and subsistence

allowance, which is attributed to the Members Allowances and Support budget.

## **6. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 6.1 To undertake the four yearly review of the Council's representation on a variety of organisations and partnerships. To ensure the Council is efficient and effective on how it spends time, resources and influences outcomes.

## **7. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Representation on Organisations 2022/23 until 2025/26.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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