



City of Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 19 May 2023

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2023/24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to determine the appointment of representatives to the schedule of Outside Bodies which are deemed Council appointments for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Council is asked to:-
 - a) determine the appointments to Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix A to the report; and
 - b) Give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer (Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services) to agree any in-year changes to Council appointments to outside bodies, should the need arise, in consultation with the relevant Group Leader(s).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. In addition to being appointed to Committees and Panels within the Council, Councillors are also appointed to external bodies such as charitable bodies, local partnerships and other organisations. This can be either as representatives of the Council, as trustees or directors in their own right. The Council also has representatives on bodies such as the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, South Yorkshire Pensions Authority and the Police and Crime Panel. Such appointments help to ensure that the Council's views are represented to local and national groups and, where the representative has voting rights, that the Council is involved in any decisions that may affect the people of Doncaster.

BACKGROUND

5. Appendix A to this report details the outside bodies where appointments are required to be made at this meeting.
6. Work is carried out each year to ensure that all details held on file in respect of each outside body and the capacity in which the appointee will serve, are correct and up-to-date as this information can change regularly. Incorporated within Appendix A are details of each outside body, term of office, capacity in which the appointee(s) will serve and any other relevant details. This is based on information provided by each of the outside bodies. Unless otherwise specified, the term of office for outside bodies runs from the date of appointment (this is usually Annual Council) until the appointment is reviewed at the next Annual Council meeting. Where it is not possible to review appointments at Annual Council, current appointments will roll forward until such time as they can be reviewed; this is to ensure that the Council retains representation on these bodies.
7. Where vacancies arise in-year or cannot be made at Annual Council e.g. an appointee is no longer eligible to represent the Council or resigns, the Council will look to fill these positions as soon as is reasonably practical. In order to ensure expediency and timely representation on outside bodies, it is proposed that Full Council grants delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer (Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services) to agree any in-year changes to Council appointments to outside bodies, should the need arise, in consultation with the relevant Group Leader(s). This will help prevent prolonged delays in filling any vacancies should they arise and reflects the arrangements in place for Executive appointments to outside bodies.
8. Detailed below are any notable changes to the schedule of Outside Bodies that have occurred since last year's appointments were made:-

Doncaster Sheffield Airport Consultative Committee and Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

Following the closure of the Doncaster Sheffield Airport, the Airport Consultative Committee and Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee are currently being held in abeyance and, therefore, nominations to sit on these Committees are not required for 2023/24. These bodies have therefore been removed from the schedule of appointments detailed in Appendix A.

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) – Thematic Boards

At this time, the governance arrangements of SYMCA are being reviewed and nominations to Thematic Boards are not being sought until that review is concluded. Accordingly, the following SYMCA boards have been deleted from the schedule:-

- Business, Recovery and Growth Board
- Housing and Infrastructure Board
- Education, Skills and Employability Board
- Transport and the Environment Board
- Local Enterprise Partnership

Appointments are still being sought for the SYMCA Board and the SYMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit, Standards & Risk Committee.

South Yorkshire Joint Authorities




9. Appointments to the Joint Authorities are made annually and are subject to the rules of “political proportionality” provided by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Seat allocations on these bodies are determined by calculating political proportionality across South Yorkshire.






OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. The option to appoint to the Outside Bodies detailed within the appendix seeks to ensure the Council’s views are represented to local and national groups and, where the representative has voting rights, to be involved in any decisions that may affect the people of Doncaster.
11. The option not to appoint to the list of Outside Bodies would mean a loss of opportunity for the Council in lobbying, decision making, representing the Council’s views and influencing future policy.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

12. This report has no direct impact on the Council’s Key Outcomes. However, the work carried out by many of the outside bodies listed in the appendix, and on which the Council is represented, is likely to contribute positively towards many of these priorities.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments: N/A				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments: N/A				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments: N/A				

 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments: There are no specific health implications arising from this report. However, the outside bodies themselves have the potential to improve health and reduce health inequalities. Individuals appointed to the outside bodies should be aware of this and can seek guidance from the public health team about how to maximise these opportunities and minimise any risks to the health of Doncaster residents.				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments: N/A				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments: N/A				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments: N/A				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments: N/A				
Fair & Inclusive				✓
Comments: N/A				

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 11.04.23]

13. Members of the Council are appointed in different capacities. The bodies range from incorporated bodies to Associations, Schemes and Statutory Bodies. The nature of the organisation and its constitution and nature of the appointment will affect any personal liabilities of the appointed representatives.
14. Representatives may be appointed to a body either with voting rights or as observers. The nature of appointment will be specified in the Articles/Constitution

of the organisation. In some cases, the appointment may be as Directors or Trustees in which case the representative will be obliged to act in the interests of the charity or company and will be personally liable in the event of any breach of their duties. Where representatives are appointed to Outside Bodies as Directors or Trustees or where they are expected to carry out a management function for the Outside Body, they should seek legal advice as to their duties and responsibilities and any personal liability which may accrue.

15. The rules of political proportionality are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 (as amended). The SYFRA and the SYPA are Joint Authorities to which the duties under Sections 15 and 16 apply for so long as the Council appoints 3 or more seats on the Joint Authorities. In simplistic terms, the political group that holds the majority of seats on the Council has the majority of seats on a committee appointed to by Council.
16. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, provides the mechanism by which to implement this requirement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 11/04/23]

17. Approval of the recommendations does not have additional cost implications for the Authority. Representatives appointed to the Joint Authorities receive an allowance for undertaking their duties which is paid by the relevant Joint Authority. Members may receive reimbursement for travel and subsistence if this is not already provided by the outside body and meetings are held outside of the area of the City of Doncaster Council.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: RH | Date: 12.04.23]

18. There are no specific HR implications related to the content of this report. However, officers should be reminded that for any new nominations a revised Declaration of Interest form should be completed.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 12/04/23]

19. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

20. Appointees to outside bodies will need to act strategically and ensure issues of significance are effectively reported back to the Authority where appropriate.
21. In recent years, the Council has reviewed the Governance of the Council's arrangements and relationship with outside bodies and partnerships. One of the key elements of this work has been to ensure that representatives appointed to Outside Bodies are clear of their roles and responsibilities. A particular risk exists where representatives may act beyond their powers or potentially commit the Council to unauthorised actions or expenditure. To mitigate this risk, training is provided for all individuals appointed to outside bodies to raise awareness and provide clarity and understanding of their roles. A partnership officer has also

been identified for each group to support the appointed members. In addition, the Council may also provide indemnity insurance for individuals against personal liability, provided they act reasonably, and where this is not provided by the relevant partner organisation.

CONSULTATION

22. Consultation has taken place with Group Leaders in respect of the appointment of Members onto Outside Bodies, prior to the Council meeting taking place.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

23. Report to Council – 20th May 2022: Council Appointments to Outside Bodies – 2022/23.

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