

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

## **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies**

### **Summary**

1. At the Annual Council meeting on 20 May 2014 appointments were made to Committees, outside and partnership bodies together with appointments to Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2014/15 municipal year. On 23 October 2014, an Extraordinary Council meeting subsequently reviewed the allocation of seats, appointments to the Council structure and outside bodies, and further changes were agreed, following a by-election and changes in political group memberships.
2. A new Leader of the Council was then appointed on 11 December 2014 and with a reduction in Cabinet members, a number of additional changes to Council appointments were agreed at meetings of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee in January 2015. However, since these appointments were made, further changes have been requested to the previously agreed list.

### **Background**

3. Changes have been requested to the membership of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee and, due to the current speed of delivery and wide scope of work streams, for the Community Stadium project, it is proposed to establish a lead members group to provide cross party input from Council members.
4. As the Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee has authority to deal with any changes or appointments to those Committees and bodies within year, the following changes and additions are now put forward for consideration:

(i) **Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee**

At the last meeting of the Committee, Councillor Williams was appointed to replace Councillor Fraser on the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee.

Traditionally, the Council Leader has chaired this Committee in recent years, when present. As a result, it is suggested that Councillor Williams formally replace Councillor Simpson-Laing as Chair of the Committee.

(ii) **York Community Stadium Lead Members**

The York Community Stadium Project was granted outline planning consent in May 2012. In January 2012 a decision was taken by the Council to include the City's sports facilities within the contract. In September 2012 the procurement exercise was initiated and the project has developed significantly since that point. A preferred bidder was appointed and authority given for the new proposals for the Community Stadium Leisure Complex to proceed (subject to contract) at the Cabinet meeting in September 2014. The financial parameters for the project were set and agreed at Full Council in October 2014.

A detailed planning application has been submitted that includes a new leisure complex (a replacement for Waterworld), funded by new commercial aspects of the scheme including retail units and a cinema. The council's overall contribution to this £47M development project is £8M.

Regular reports updating members on progress and seeking authority to proceed have been taken to the Council's Cabinet. A Project Board is responsible for the progression of the Project, working under the authority granted by Cabinet / Full council and the delegated powers of the appropriate Council Directors. The Community Stadium Project Board is chaired by the Director of City & Environmental Services.

Due to the current speed of delivery and wide scope of workstreams underway for the project, it is proposed to establish a lead members group providing cross party input from Council members for more detailed briefing regarding the position and progress of the project.

The Community Stadium Lead Members group (CSLM) will provide an opportunity for members to be briefed on the delivery of the York Community Stadium project and, therefore, enable them to brief the wider member groups.

The project is in the final phase of the EU Procurement tender now that a preferred bidder has been secured and a planning submission has been submitted.

A considerable amount of the work underway relates to the commercial and legal contract negotiations and documentation. Strict protocols must be followed in relation to confidentiality and any member involvement in the procurement process. It is therefore important that the role of this group is clearly defined as a briefing process. Many tender & legal documents and financial information will need to remain confidential.

The Group will be chaired by the Director of City & Environmental Services. The Director of Finance will ensure that members are provided with the appropriate level of information regarding the financial position and risks associated with the project moving forward.

Taking into account all these dimensions and the significant progress now being made, it is important for a York Community Stadium Leaders Group to emerge, reflecting a wide representation and dynamic. Members are asked to consider an appropriate composition at this meeting and whether that should include representation from all parties and Ward Members for instance.

It is proposed to use a similar model to that adopted for another major infrastructure development project – York Central. Members are asked to consider whether the following composition would therefore be appropriate:

6 cross-party places:

1 x Labour

1 x Conservative Group

1 x Liberal Democrat Group

1 x Green Group

1 x Labour Independent

1 x Independent

In addition, 1 place for a Ward Councillor (Huntington & New Earswick)

### **Additional Requests received since the agenda was published**

#### **(iii) Planning Committee**

A request has been received from the Conservative group to appoint Councillor Richardson on Planning Committee in place of Councillor Watt.

## **Consultation**

5. In accordance with the usual process for gathering nominations to available places, the relevant Groups and individuals have been consulted, as appropriate, and provided with the necessary information.

## **Options**

6. The Committee has the option either to approve or propose alternatives to the nominations and membership of the Group proposed in this report.

## **Council Plan 2011-15**

7. Establishing an appropriate decision making and scrutiny structure and appointees to that, contributes to the Council delivering its core priorities set out in the Council Plan, effectively.

## **Implications**

8. There are no known implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matters before Members:
  - Financial
  - Human Resources (HR)
  - Equalities
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Property
  - Other

## **Legal Implications**

9. The Council is statutorily obliged to make appointments to Committees, Advisory Committees, Sub-Committees and certain other prescribed bodies in accordance with the political balance rules, where applicable.

## Risk Management

10. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

## Recommendations

Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee is asked to consider and agree the following appointment and membership for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year:

- (i) To appoint Councillor Williams to replace Councillor Simpson-Laing as Chair of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee.
- (ii) To agree the following cross party composition and membership of the York Community Stadium Lead Members Group:
  - 1 x Labour
  - 1 x Conservative Group (Councillor Steward)
  - 1 x Liberal Democrat Group (Councillor Ayre)
  - 1 x Green Group (Councillor Taylor)
  - 1 x Labour Independent
  - 1 x Independent
  - 1 place for a Ward Councillor (Councillor Orrell - Huntington & New Earswick)
- (iii) To appoint Councillor Richardson to replace Councillor Watt on Planning Committee.

Reason: In order to make appropriate appointments to the Council's Committees and Outside Bodies for the current municipal year.

**Author:**

Dawn Steel  
Head of Civic and  
Democratic Services  
Telephone: 01904 551030

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Andy Docherty  
Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 6 February 2015

**Specialist Implications Officers**

Not applicable

**Wards Affected:** Not applicable

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers**

None

**Annexes**

None