

## **Scrutiny Review of Member Representation on Outside Bodies** **Initial Findings**

### **Background**

Elected Members of East Staffordshire Borough Council can be appointed to sit on and liaise with outside bodies. These, in the main, tend to be charitable and / or community organisations who support the Council's work – usually through the priorities of the Corporate Plan. As of September 2018, there are 22 outside bodies in total. The full list of Outside Bodies can be found at Appendix 1.

At the beginning of each calendar year, Members who are appointed to sit on outside bodies are requested by the Democratic Services Team to complete a report which sets out the number of meetings that have taken place and how many these they have attended. The report also asks for any reasons for non-attendance where applicable along with details of how the activities of the group link into the three Priority themes of the Council and provide details of any upcoming decisions which would impact on East Staffordshire Borough Council.

### **Scrutiny Review**

It was recommended from a previous Internal Audit Review of Representation on Outside Bodies that as a measure of transparency and for good practice, these reports should be presented to one of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. For the past several years, this has been the Value for Money Scrutiny Committee, and more recently the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee.

It has been several years since the last review of Representation on Outside Bodies and as such the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee decided to review the current arrangements.

Initially, at the request of the Committee, the Corporate and Commercial Manager was tasked with reviewing the number of responses received for the calendar year 2017. The results are presented below.

## Analysis of Findings

In February 2018, all Elected Members who serve on an Outside Body were requested to complete a feedback report as above.

There are currently 22 Outside Bodies served by Members of the Council. Some Bodies are represented by more than Member.

There are 5 Bodies where no report has been received:

- Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee<sup>1</sup>
- Queens' Hospital Governors' Board<sup>2</sup>
- Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Planning Forum
- Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel
- Rolleston Alms Houses - Nominated Trustee

There are 39 "appointments" in total across the 22 Outside Bodies. This includes 5 substitute appointments whereby one Member represents the Council if the appointed Member to that Body is unavailable. In addition, Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee and Queens' Hospital Governors' Board both receive regular reports received at Scrutiny EGCH Committee from the nominated representative.

Therefore the true number of appointments is 32.

Reports have been received from 25 appointments. This represents a 78% response rate.

There were zero (0) reports received across 7 appointments – from 6 Elected Members. These are identified in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Outside Bodies were no reports received**

Councillor	Outside Bodies 2017	
Councillor E W R Barker	Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Planning Forum	
Councillor Mrs B Toon	Consolidated Charity of Burton upon Trent	Rolleston Alms Houses - Nominated Trustee
Councillor S Gaskin	Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel <sup>3</sup>	
Councillor R A Johnston	Carver Road Community Centre Management Committee <sup>4</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Regular reports received at Scrutiny EGCH Committee from Chairman

<sup>2</sup> Regular reports received at Scrutiny EGCH Committee from Rep.

<sup>3</sup> Councillor S Gaskin replaced Councillor D Florence-Jukes in Feb 2018 following resignation from the Conservative Group

<sup>4</sup> Councillor R A Johnston replaced Councillor D Florence-Jukes in Feb 2018 following resignation from the Conservative Group

Councillor	Outside Bodies 2017	
Councillor S Andjelkovic	Sexual Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (SARAC)	
Councillor S A Hussain	Queen Street Community Centre Management Committee	

There were zero (0) reports received at all from 4 Elected Members:

- Councillor Mrs B Toon
- Councillor S Andjelkovic
- Councillor S A Hussain
- Councillor R A Johnston

The table below identifies the attendance rates for the Outside Bodies, taken from information provided by Elected Members.

As can be seen, a little over half (52.2%) of Elected Members attended all of the possible meetings for their respective Outside Bodies.

In terms of non-attendance, where the percentage of meetings attended is below 70%, the main reasons cited in the reports are illness; conflicting with other engagements; and holidays.

There are a number of nuances across the data, particularly amongst Outside Bodies where the Council has more than one representative. This is particularly apparent with the Consolidated Charity of Burton upon Trent – whereby 2 Members have reported a total of 4 possible meetings and another has reported 26.

There is a similar occurrence with the Carver Road Community Centre Management Committee with 6 and 2 possible meetings being reported. This type of reporting also occurs with the East Staffordshire Sports Council, Uttoxeter Leisure and Development Company Limited and Uttoxeter Heath Community Centre Management Committee Outside Bodies.

There are also two Outside Bodies where Members have reported that they have not been invited to attend meetings (Carver Road Community Centre Management Committee and Burton Amateur Boxing Club).

NAME	REPRESENTATIVES	NO. POSSIBLE MEETINGS	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED	% MEETINGS ATTENDED
Birmingham and Greater Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership	Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd	4	4	100.00%
	Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd	4	4	100.00%
Birmingham and Greater Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Mrs S McKiernan	3	3	100.00%
Consolidated Charity of Burton upon Trent	Councillor L G Milner	4	4	100.00%
	Councillor D F Fletcher	4	3	75.00%
	Councillor D C Leese	26	24	92.31%
	Councillor S Gaskin	Unclear	Unclear	
East Staffordshire Sports Council	Councillor D C Leese	10	2	20.00%
	Councillor E W R Barker / Councillor P Hudson	8	8	100.00%
Joint Waste Management Board	Councillor D C Leese	4	4	100.00%
Public Services LSP Board	Councillor R G W Grosvenor	1	1	100.00%
Uttoxeter Leisure and Development Company Limited	Councillor C Smith	2	2	100.00%
	Councillor Mrs S McGarry	3	3	100.00%
C.P.R.E. (Staffordshire Branch) - Campaign to Protect Rural England	Councillor E W R Barker	4	3	75.00%
Nottingham East Midlands Airport Consultative Group	Councillor C Smith	5	3	60.00%
Sexual Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (SARAC)	Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd	12	11	91.67%
Burton Amateur Boxing Club	Councillor S Gaskin	5	Not invited to attend any meetings	
Carver Road Community Centre Management Committee	Councillor K J Bulth	6	4	66.67%
	Councillor L G Milner	2	0	0.00%
Queen Street Community Centre Management Committee	Councillor A A Chaudhry	9	5	55.56%

NAME	REPRESENTATIVES	NO. POSSIBLE MEETINGS	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED	% MEETINGS ATTENDED
Uttoxeter Heath Community Centre Management Committee	Councillor Mrs S McGarry	5	4	80.00%
	Councillor P Hudson	3	Not invited to attend any meetings	
Waterside Community Centre Management Committee	Councillor Ms A J Legg Temporarily replaced by Councillor C Wileman	4	4	100.00%
Henry Warford Trust	Councillor J Jones	2	2	100.00%
Barton and Dunstall Key Trust	Councillor J Jones	3	3	100.00%
<b>Average</b>		<b>5.54</b>	<b>4.59</b>	<b>83.00%</b>

## **Appendix 1 – List of Outside Bodies as at September 2018.**

1. Birmingham and Greater Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
2. Birmingham and Greater Solihull LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee
3. Consolidated Charity of Burton upon Trent
4. Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee
5. East Staffordshire Sports Council
6. Joint Waste Management Board
7. Queens' Hospital Governors' Board
8. Public Services LSP Board
9. Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Planning Forum
10. Uttoxeter Leisure and Development Company Limited
11. Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel
12. C.P.R.E. (Staffordshire Branch) - Campaign to Protect Rural England
13. Nottingham East Midlands Airport Consultative Group
14. Sexual Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (SARAC)
15. Burton Amateur Boxing Club
16. Carver Road Community Centre Management Committee
17. Queen Street Community Centre Management Committee
18. Uttoxeter Heath Community Centre Management Committee
19. Waterside Community Centre Management Committee
20. Rolleston Alms Houses - Nominated Trustee
21. Henry Warford Trust
22. Barton and Dunstall Key Trust