

Outside Bodies Annual Report 2019-20

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WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO COUNCIL?

This report provides copies and an analysis and overview of the annual reports received by Council Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies during 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council are recommended to:

- (a) Note the Outside Bodies Annual Report 2019-20.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Outside Bodies Representation List is reviewed and agreed annually by Full Council and identifies both Member Champions and Members on Outside Bodies. This report relates to representation for the 2019/20 year.
- 1.2 Members formally allocated to outside body representation are expected to provide an annual feedback report. Each year these reports are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to acknowledge where and how Members have been active in their Outside Bodies. Members use existing mechanisms, mainly linked officers, to feed any actions or issues into the council.
- 1.3 Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies have a responsibility to report actions, issues and risks to ensure required

activity is undertaken by the Council. Any necessary concerns will then be addressed and any appropriate mitigating action taken. A standard summary feedback form template is in place for Member representatives to use following a meeting that can then be circulated to the relevant officers and Members for follow up information, communication and action.

2.0 FEEDBACK RECEIVED

- 2.1 The responses from outside body Member representatives are attached at Appendix A and responses from Member Champions are attached at Appendix B. The feedback received includes 25 Member representatives, 48% of Outside Bodies on the list, and 6 Member Champions, 54% of Member Champions on the list. As was evidenced in last year's responses, Members have been active in their Outside Bodies during the past year. They continue to work with officers and use existing mechanisms, including circulating notes and minutes of meetings attended to feed issues into the Council.
- 2.2 As highlighted last year several Outside Bodies publish their papers online and are therefore available to Members and Staff to access e.g. Copeland Community Fund.
- 2.3 A number of key partnerships are reported on through the Portfolio reports to Full Council and using the quarterly performance management and reporting framework.
- 2.4 Six Member Champions have reported on their annual activities: Health and Wellbeing, Antis-Social Behaviour, SME, Older Persons, Young People, Heritage and Homelessness. This annual reporting is not obligatory and those received are attached at Appendix B.
- 2.5 Champions also use opportunities throughout the year to report through standard communications mechanisms on issues and activities. Some Champions take the opportunity to meet with staff and key partners regularly and others are active Members of projects, such as the Children's Charter. All six reports highlight the value of the champion role to the Council and delivery of our priorities in this area.

2.6 The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly affected the frequency of meetings of Outside Bodies since March 2020 and this must be taken into account when viewing the responses from Members.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The purpose of the annual review report is to ensure Members are able at least once a year to reflect and report on their activity highlighting any issues. It is also a mechanism for Members to be held to account; if Copeland Borough Council is not represented on Outside Bodies that they have Members allocated to it disenfranchises Copeland residents.

3.2 In summary, the annual reporting for 2019/20 has been 52%, more than 2018/19 at 40%, but less than the nearly 60% in 2017/18 and significantly less than the 80% response from the previous year.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Outside Bodies Feedback Forms received

Appendix B – Member Champion Feedback Forms received

Appendix C – Agreed Outside Bodies List 2019/20