

Report to: Cabinet
Date of Meeting: 21 July 2020
Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None
Review date for release None



Subject: **Makeup of Panels, Forums, Joint Bodies and Outside Bodies**

Purpose of report: This report follows the Extraordinary General Meeting of Council on 24 June 2020 and related decisions taken at the meeting. The next stage of the appointments process is to nominate and appoint to the Panels, Forums, Joint Bodies and Outside Bodies.

In preparation for this coming forward, there have been discussions with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Democracy and Transparency and Assistant Portfolio Holder for Democracy and Transparency and as a consequence there are some proposed changes to the makeup of the Panels, Forums, Joint Bodies and Outside Bodies. Some of these changes are necessary in light of constitutional changes (amendments to portfolios and removal of Lead Members for example) whereas others are proposed on the basis of increased democratic engagement. Some of the bodies have been established by Cabinet to help advise it and therefore it is appropriate that Cabinet agree their makeup ahead of it being presented to Council for its approval prior to Council then deciding on the appointments.

The current makeup as presented to and agreed at Annual Council on 22 May 2019 can be accessed from the background links.

It is worth noting that there are some additional bodies that have been included following in year decisions to establish them.

It is understood that the Cabinet will be receiving a report in due course in relation to the possible re-focussing of the role of some of the regeneration bodies and in that light, and also because it hasn't actually met since its creation, it is considered that the Axminster Regeneration Board should cease for the time being. A refreshed role, makeup and terms of reference will be considered in due course. Aside from this it is still appropriate to progress making appointments to the remainder along the lines proposed.

Members will be aware, or should be made aware, that the Monitoring Officer has written to the Group Leaders to request the group's nominations to these bodies. A brief narrative of the roles of the bodies has been circulated as well to assist Members.

Finally, Cabinet at its meeting on 5 February 2020 agreed to the setting up of the Housing Company TaFF and Poverty Working Panel. The report that was presented to Cabinet can be found in the background links. Given the change in political balance since the report was written and the membership of the bodies agreed, it is now necessary to re-set the makeup of these two groups as well. Accordingly is suggested that delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to work with the Group Leaders to agree the membership of the two bodies to ensure that it reflects the current political balance. It is recommended that Cllrs

Ledger and Armstrong continue to Chair the respective meetings. Otherwise the size of the two bodies and their Terms of Reference will be as resolved by Cabinet at the meeting of 5 February 2020.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet;

- (1) agree the proposed makeup of Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies (Appendix 1) and Outside Bodies (Appendix 2) and, where relevant, recommend them to Council to agree;**
- (2) confirm Cllr Ledger and Cllr Armstrong continuing as the Chairs of the Housing Company TaFF and Poverty Working Panel and gives delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to agree the membership of the TaFF and Panel to, as far as reasonably practicable, reflect the political balance of the Council.**

Reason for recommendation:

This ensures that the makeup of the bodies that have been set up by the Cabinet are agreed ahead of Council agreeing the makeup and making the appointments. It also enables the Housing Company TaFF and Poverty Working Panel which Cabinet established to be re-set to reflect the current political makeup of the Council.

Officer:

Henry Gordon Lennox, Monitoring Officer

Portfolio Holder:

Portfolio Holder Democracy and Transparency

Financial implications:

There are no financial implications arising.

Legal implications:

It is appropriate for Cabinet to confirm any changes to groups that it has set up and to recommend other changes to Council. Otherwise there are no legal implications requiring comment.

Equalities impact:

Low Impact

Climate change:

Low Impact

Risk:

Low Risk

Links to background information:

[Annual Council 22nd May 2019](#)
[Report to Cabinet 5th February 2020](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#):

Outstanding Place and Environment
Outstanding Homes and Communities
Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
Outstanding Council and Council Services