



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY

**to
COUNCIL
27 OCTOBER 2016**

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAMS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To agree Member representation on the Coastal Community teams and arrangements for appointments to be reviewed and made in the future.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Council agrees that the decision of the Community Services Committee in 18 April 2016 (Minute 1141(i) refers) is restated to relate to both the Maldon and Blackwater Estuary and River Crouch Coast Community Teams;
- (ii) That the Council agrees that the future review and making of appointments to the two Coastal Community Team Management Committees should rest with the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Community Services Committee at their first meetings each new Municipal Year.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council though the Planning and Licensing Committee has with assistance of grant funding established Coastal Community Teams for the Maldon and Blackwater Estuary and the River Crouch Estuary. The Teams have already produced Economic Plans which were endorsed by the Committee in March 2016. At the same meeting, consideration was given to the Member representation on both teams. The Committee decided to appoint its Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- 3.2 At the March 2016 meeting of the Committee, it was resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee be appointed to serve on the Management Committee of the two Teams, with Councillors E L Bamford and P G L Elliott as named substitutes. Since the constitutional arrangements provide for two local authority representatives for each Team it was decided to invite the Community Services Committee to nominate accordingly.
- 3.3 It appears that the recommendation in the report to the Planning and Licensing Committee on 3 March 2016 designed to refer the matter to the Community Services Committee made mention of only the Maldon and Blackwater Estuary Team. At the

subsequent meeting of the Community Services Committee that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Community Services Committee or his / her substitute were nominated to join the Management Team of the Maldon and Blackwater Estuary Coastal Community Team. Clearly that is over-representation on the one Team and cannot occur. Although the issue of Member representation on the River Crouch Estuary Team was raised it was not dealt with.

- 3.4 At the statutory annual meeting of the Council in May, the Planning and Licensing Committee appointments were included in the list of Appointments of Representatives on Outside Bodies and endorsed.
- 3.5 The work of these teams is progressing and it is important to finalise the Member representation. The two matters for immediate consideration are:
- i) Appointment of two representatives and substitutes from the Community Services Committees;
 - ii) Whether the future review and making of appointments should rest with the individual Committees.
- 3.6 In the interests of expediency, it is open to the Council to seek to clarify the Member representation position and with the benefit of hindsight it would best to interpret the previous decision of the Community Services Committee (Minute 1141(i) refers) to relate to both the Maldon and Blackwater Estuary and the Crouch Estuary Teams in line with that of the Planning and Licensing Committee. This would then enable either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of each Committee to serve on one of the two Teams' Management Committees.
- 3.7 It is also open to the Council to agree at which level future appointments in respect of these Teams should be made. It is arguable that these Teams are not outside bodies in the strict sense on which this Council is invited to be represented, rather they are stakeholder/user groupings set up by this Council as the 'accountable body'. In that sense, each Committee could deal with the review and making of appoints to these Teams at their first meeting in the Municipal Year alongside other Working Groups, Liaison Panels etc.

4. LINKS WITH CORPORATE GOALS

- 4.1 The review and updating of the corporate governance arrangements of the Council underpins the decision making processes of the Council, is in part a matter of compliance with the law and is also linked to the overarching principle of being efficient and effective.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – It is important that the Council is able openly to explain, through well-presented and user-friendly constitutional documentation, the way in which it is set up and operates, and how it conducts its business. It is important that the Council's procedures are seen as open and transparent.

- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None identified.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None identified.

Background Papers: None.

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