

## **Appointments to Outside Bodies – Rural Services Network**

**19 July 2023**

### **Report of the Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider nominating a Councillor and a substitute to be appointed to the Rural Services Network.

**This report is public**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) That Council notes that the Rural Services Network has requested that a Councillor be appointed to represent Lancaster City Council.**
- (2) That Council considers the basis of appointment to the Network.**
- (3) That, should Council determine the basis of appointment to be nomination and voting at Council, nominations be made and voted upon at this meeting and an appointment made until the next City Council elections in 2027.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The City Council is a member of the Rural Services Network. The Network is a membership organisation that exists as the national champion for rural services. It works to share best practice and network across its wide membership.

1.2 On 30 June 2023, Democratic Support were contacted by the Network requesting Councillor representation on that body in the form of an appointed Councillor and a substitute, stating that these councillor roles are vital to the organisation. They will be the representatives of Lancaster City Council who link between the City Council and other organisations, sharing learning and key messages from campaigns and service provider experience of the challenges facing rural communities.

#### **2.0 Proposal Details**

2.1 In the first instance, the Council is asked to consider the basis of appointment to the Network and decide and whether that should be by nomination and voting

at Council, or by virtue of position, such as Cabinet Member or Ward Member, for example.

- 2.2 If the basis agreed is nomination and voting at Council, Members are asked to appoint a Councillor and a substitute to the Network at this meeting. Since the particular focus of this outside body is rural services, it would seem appropriate for Councillors representing rural wards to be nominated for appointment.

### 3.0 Meetings of the Network

- 3.1 The appointed Councillor would be expected to attend two meetings per year, all held online via Zoom. They generally last two hours. Invitations to the meetings are circulated in advance and the Councillor can book on through Eventbrite and they will then receive joining instructions and full papers for the event via email.

### 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Council is asked to consider the basis of appointment to the Network first of all. If that basis is determined to be nominating and voting at Council, Members are asked to appoint a Councillor and a substitute to the Network at this meeting.

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None directly arising from this report.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None directly arising from this report.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Members of outside bodies are entitled to travel expenses. Costs resulting from this appointment should be minimal and would be met from existing democratic representation budgets.

#### **OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

#### **MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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