

Council

12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director of Resources

**Ward(s) affected:**

Not Applicable

**Title:**

**Appointments to Outside Bodies**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the City Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the appointment of City Council representatives were made to the Board and Committees of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) for 2016/2017.

This report seeks approval of changes to the Council's appointments to the WMCA Audit and Standards Committee (formerly the WMCA Audit Committee) and the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in order to meet requirements to proposed changes to the Combined Authority's draft Constitution.

This report also informs the City Council of the appointment of Members to the West Midlands Joint Committee for 2016/2017, the first meeting of the Committee for that Municipal Year being their AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

This report further seeks to amend appointments made at the Annual General Meeting in relation to a City Council representative on Coventry Law Centre Limited and a representative on Culture Coventry Trust for 2016/2017.

**Recommendations:**

- 1) That the City Council make the following appointments to the West Midlands Combined Authority Committees:
  - i) Councillor Bains be appointed as the City Council's representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee and Councillor N Akhtar as the substitute Member for 2016/2017.
  - ii) Councillor R Singh be appointed as the City Council's substitute representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016/2017.

- 2) That the City Council notes the appointments of Councillor Duggins, Councillor A Khan and Councillor Blundell as the Authority's representatives on the West Midlands Joint Committee for 2016/2017, appointed by the Chief Executive in accordance with Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M: of the Council's Constitution enabling him, under the Scheme of Functions Delegated to Employees and in consultation with the Leader, to make decisions in an emergency.
- 3) That the City Council approves the appointment of Councillor A Andrews as a City Council representative on Coventry Law Centre Limited for 2016/2017.
- 4) That the City Council approves the appointment of Councillor Lakha as a City Council representative on Culture Coventry Trust for 2016/2017.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Useful background papers:**

None

**Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

Yes – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Report title: Appointment to Outside Body – West Midlands Combined Authority and West Midlands Joint Committee**

**1. Context (or background)**

**West Midlands Combined Authority**

- 1.1 At the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 19th May 2016 the appointment of City Council representatives were made to the Board and Committees of the WMCA for 2016/2017.
- 1.2 On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016, the Shadow Combined Authority made draft technical amendments to the proposed Constitution to include the Audit Committee terms of reference being extended to include oversight of the Standards Regime. A member of the Audit and Standards Committee cannot be a member of any other committee or subcommittee of the WMCA. The WMCA is proposing to make further amendments to the constitution following its inception to allow for a representative from all of the seven constituent authorities to sit upon the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of the WMCA as well as a substitute representative from each constituent area.
- 1.3 As Councillor Bains and Councillor J Mutton were appointed as the City Council's representatives on both Committees, it is now necessary to make changes to the appointments on these two bodies.
- 1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 1.5 The Audit and Standards Committee is responsible for matters concerning internal audit, including risk management, and the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct and ethical governance.

**West Midlands Joint Committee**

- 1.8 The City Council has historically made appointments as representatives of the Authority to the West Midlands Joint Committee (WMJC) as part of the annual appointments of representatives at the City Council's AGM. The WMJC Co-ordinators advised that there was no longer a requirement for the City Council to make these appointments from May 2016 as the WMJC would be wound-up and all business would subsequently be transferred to, and considered by, the anticipated West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Therefore no appointments were made for 2016/2017.
- 1.9 The WMJC Co-ordinators have now advised the City Council that there are some specific duties currently dealt with by the Joint Committee that cannot be transferred to the WMCA and as a consequence two labour member appointments and one conservative member appointment of the Authority should be made.
- 1.10 The WMJC held their AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 which was prior to the next City Council meeting, in order for Coventry's representatives to take part in that AGM meeting on behalf of Coventry and vote on any matters, they needed to be formally appointed without which they would not have had any voting rights on behalf of this Authority. In light of this the

Chief Executive agreed that, this constituted an emergency in line with Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M of the Constitution, and that appointments should be made in advance of the AGM.

- 1.11 The Chief Executive consulted the Leader of the City Council and Leader of the Opposition to confirm their agreement to this course of action and for their nominations for appointments.

### **Coventry Law Centre Limited**

- 1.12 At the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 19th May, 2016, the City Council appointed Councillor Welsh and Councillor Hammon as the 2016/2017 City Council representatives on Coventry Law Centre Limited, a charity employing Solicitors and paralegals to offer free legal advice and representation in the areas of housing, immigration, employment and discrimination, education, mental health, community care and welfare benefits to the people of Coventry.

- 1.13 It is now proposed that an amendment be made to appoint Councillor Andrews to this body to replace Councillor Hammon, with immediate effect.

### **Culture Coventry Trust**

- 1.14 At the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 19th May, 2016, the City Council appointed Councillors Skipper, Abbott, Bigham, McNicholas and Sawdon as the 2016/2017 City Council representatives on the Board of Directors of Culture Coventry Trust, whose purpose is to oversee the operation of facilities.

- 1.13 It is now proposed that an amendment be made to appoint Councillor Lakha to this body to replace Councillor Bigham, with immediate effect.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

### **West Midlands Combined Authority**

- 2.1 It is proposed that Councillor Bains be appointed as the City Council's representative on the WMCA Audit and Standards Committee and Councillor N Akhtar as the substitute representative for 2016/2017.
- 2.2 It is proposed that Councillor R Singh be appointed as the City Council's substitute representative on the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016/2017.

### **West Midlands Joint Committee**

- 2.3 It is proposed that the appointments of Councillor Duggins, Councillor A Khan and Councillor Blundell, as the City Council's representatives on the WMJC for 2016/2017, made by the exercise of emergency functions by the Chief Executive, be noted.

### **Coventry Law Centre Limited**

- 2.4 It is proposed that Councillor Andrews be appointed as a representative on Coventry Law Centre Limited for 2016/2017 to replace Councillor Hammon.

## **Culture Coventry Trust**

- 2.5 It is proposed that Councillor Lakha be appointed as a representative on Culture Coventry Trust for 2016/2017 to replace Councillor Bigham.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 Not applicable

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The appointments for the West Midlands Combined Authority will take effect from the date of the Council Meeting.

### **5. Comments from the Executive Director of Resources**

- 5.1 Financial implications

Not applicable

- 5.2 Legal implications

Not applicable

### **6. Other implications**

Not applicable

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