

FULL COUNCIL



Agenda Item: Appointments to Outside Organisations

Meeting Date: Monday, 17 February 2025

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

The Town Council appoints representatives to outside organisations, and it is usually recommended those appointed should serve until the Annual Council Meeting following the next ordinary election of Councillors (May 2027).

Due to the constitutions and arrangements of certain bodies, requests periodically arise throughout the year for the Council to consider.

Current Situation

Witney Flood Group

The purpose of the Witney Flood Group as set out with the Charities Commission is as follows:

‘For the benefit of the community the preservation of human life and property by working with other stakeholders to preserve, maintain, restore, and/or improve flood defences and flood protection measures and flood damage in the area of Witney, Oxfordshire.’

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2024, following agreement with the Group, it was resolved under minute no. 694, ‘that, a Council representative on the Witney Flood Group be agreed at the next meeting of the Council on 17 February 2025.’

Following further discussion with the Witney Flood Group Founder & Spokesperson, it has been advised the Flood Group will invite the appointed liaison to meet with them as and when required and communicate invites for updates and send updates via email when necessary. They will be invited to specific sessions identified for WFG and WTC collaboration subjects only and will neither be an elected trustee nor observer at regular meetings to preserve the Group’s independence.

Although representing the Council, the appointed liaison is not permitted to act ultra vires – commit the Council to any course of action. Issues or reports should be passed to the Council and vice versa via the normal democratic process. Updates should be provided, when possible at Full Council meetings.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – no direct implications.
- b) Biodiversity – no direct implications.
- c) Crime & Disorder – no direct implications.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – By formalising direct communications with the Witney Flood Group it will help the Council stay abreast of any issues which may arise regarding flooding within the town.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

- Representatives on Outside Body groups provide the town council with means to be involved in their work which may affect and improve the lives of residents sustainably, socially, and environmentally.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and;

1. Consider nominations for and appoint a town council liaison with the Witney Flood Group.