

**Bolsover District Council**

**Executive**

**7 September 2015**

**Appointments to Outside Bodies**

**Report of the Governance Manager**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To make appointments to three outside bodies.

**1 Report Details**

1.1 The Council has been approached to provide members to sit on three outside organisations. Details where they have been provided are attached as appendices to this report.

1.2 All of the organisations relate to executive functions and the relevant executive member has been allocated as follows:

- Defra Rural and Farming Network – Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth
- Anti-Poverty Champions for Derbyshire – Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion
- Culture Derbyshire Board – Portfolio Holder for Leisure

**2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 To appoint members to three outside bodies.

**3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

3.1 None.

**4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 Not to appoint, but this would leave Bolsover without representation on key outside bodies.

**5 Implications**

None.

## 6 **Recommendations**

6.1 To appoint the:

- Portfolio Member for Economic Growth to the Defra Rural and Farming Network
- Portfolio Member for Social Inclusion to be an Anti-Poverty Champion for Derbyshire
- Portfolio Member for Leisure to the Culture Derbyshire Board

## 7 **Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	

## 8 **Document Information**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>

## **Defra Rural and Farming Network**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Defra Rural and Farming Network (RFN) will champion rural issues in DEP and with Local Enterprise Partnerships

#### **The RFN's top four areas of focus will be:**

1. Growing microbusinesses
2. Vibrant market towns as employment and service centres
3. Broadband speed and access in rural communities
4. Increasing employment opportunities for young people in rural areas

together with

- Support for rural and farming businesses
- Promoting and recognising the economic value from quality of place and the low carbon economy
- Mobile telephone infrastructure
- Improving access to services, transport, health, housing and leisure/tourism

#### **Purpose of the RFN**

- Champion rural economic issues particularly with LEPs, Combined Authorities and Economic Prosperity Boards; but also with Derbyshire County Council and national organisations. This is a key responsibility of any DEP Board members who sit on LEP Boards, Combined Authorities or Economic Prosperity Boards
- Raise the profile of rural economic issues and provide strategic direction to the DEP Board on rural matters
- Provide a basis for effective two-way communication between Defra ministers and rural interests
- Identify key issues and trends affecting rural economies and provide a forum for discussion to develop appropriate responses from partners and the RFN
- Contributing rural economy priorities and actions for Growth Plans
- Make recommendations to LEPs, Combined Authorities, Economic Prosperity Boards and DEP regarding allocation of funding
- Raise awareness, advocate and represent national to local interest on rural affairs, food and farming issues
- Co-ordinate plans to support the rural economy and propose measures to ensure LEP plans address rural needs
- Support and endorse LEADER and other plans, and support implementation (with task and finish groups as appropriate)
- Co-ordinate other rural funding programmes and activity between partners and partnerships and to consider what resources might be shared more effectively, including the development of pooled budgets, where appropriate
- Provide a link with and between other partnerships/networks addressing rural economy/ market towns issues, identifying where partnership work with other Rural and Farming Networks can address areas of common concern
- Share best practice and experience between partner agencies, using expertise and knowledge of new and existing activity to provide feedback

## **Membership**

The RFN will elect a Chair and Vice Chair, from amongst the RFN members who sit on the DEP Board. The Chair and Vice Chair will be the DEP Board's rural champions.

The RFN will comprise the following organisational representatives, who will act as a conduit to and from the organisation/network they represent:

- all district/borough councils in Derbyshire
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Derbyshire County Council
- Natural England
- NFU
- Farming Life Centre
- Visit Peak District
- Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce
- County Land and Business Association
- National Forest Company
- Rural Action Derbyshire representing the Voluntary Sector
- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
- A representative from Derbyshire Skills Network (also representing the Derbyshire Employment and Skills Board)
- A representative of a food business
- A representative from each of the D2N2 and SCR Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Business Peak District

Officers from Derbyshire County Council will attend meetings and provide the secretariat. Supporting officers from other partner organisations may also attend. Supporting officers will not have voting rights.

Any nominee can be replaced with a replacement suitable to the role at anytime by their organisation. A representative shall automatically cease to be a member of the Forum if the person ceases to be a member or employee of the member organisation.

## **Meetings**

Meetings will normally be held twice a year. Meetings will focus on advocacy and decision making (rather than information sharing).

The RFN will promote information sharing by email to maintain engagement between meetings.

Decisions will, wherever possible, be reached by consensus. Where this is not possible, decisions will be made by a simple majority vote. Each partner organisation will have one vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote. A decision may be deferred by the Chair if relevant partners are not represented at a RFN meeting.

Any personal or prejudicial interests of RFN members should be declared on any item of business requiring a decision.

## **Administration and support**

The RFN will be managed by a subgroup of the DEP Partnership Coordination Group (PCG) supported by a proportion of the two DEP staff, working to the RFN Chair. The PCG subgroup will help develop RFN agendas, and will be supported by a proportion of the two DEP staff.

Derbyshire County Council will provide the secretariat to the RFN, and will supply policy and research support.

### **Changes to Terms of Reference**

These Terms of Reference may be amended by the RFN.

Dear Forum Member,

The appointment of Anti-poverty champions for Derbyshire.

At the last meeting of Derbyshire Partnership Forum, a progress report on the delivery and implementation of Derbyshire's Anti-poverty Strategy was presented to the board alongside proposed actions to take forward work over the next six months. It was agreed that key to this work are 'Anti-poverty champions', who would be identified to support the Partnership's aim of reducing poverty in Derbyshire and that organisations would nominate individuals to undertake this role. These roles will play an important part in highlighting key issues, co-ordinating activity and promoting a corporate approach to champion poverty issues with key partners. Anti-poverty champions may be expected to actively:

- **Encourage** involvement and commitment from each and every segment of partner services to participate in the fight against poverty and exclusion
- **Engage** with partners across organisational boundaries to improve methods of communication and look for new ways of working that fight poverty;
- **Challenge** stereotypes and stigmas attached to poverty and challenge the attitude that little can be done to alleviate circumstances in deprived communities;
- **Give voice** to the concerns and needs of people experiencing poverty, providing narratives to real issues at play in local communities;
- **Promote** sustainable agendas which look to add value in communities, and taking a long-term approach to developing quality of life, social well-being and equal opportunities for all;
- **Share** ideas, good practice, success and innovation across the county. Look to develop networks and facilitate joint approaches which can ensure resources are disseminated and allocated where they are most needed.

Could your organisation please provide the name of a champion and an officer contact who could fulfil the activities outlined above.

For more information on Derbyshire's Anti-Poverty Strategy please visit:

[http://www.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/anti\\_poverty\\_strategy/](http://www.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/anti_poverty_strategy/)

On the above website you'll find:

- 'Derbyshire's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-2017' – Working together to tackle poverty.
- An 'Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan' outlining current activities.
- Key contact details and information about who is leading areas of this work.
- Other guidance notes and resources.