

Eden District Council  
Council

30 July 2020

**Review of Eden District Council's Outside Body  
Representation**

<b>Report from:</b>	Chairman of the Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 This presents the findings from the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Outside Bodies and recommends changes which would improve ways of reporting back from Outside Bodies.

**2 Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council agree the following:

1. that with effect from the commencement of the municipal year 2021/2022, Eden District Council no longer send any representatives to Omega Proteins Liaison Board; and that the number of representatives on Greenwich Leisure Limited Eden Board be reduced to one;
2. that Members who are elected to a position representing Eden District Council on an Outside Body should fill in a summary note after each meeting they attend, to be published on the Eden District Council website;
3. that a working group be set up to monitor Eden District Council representation on outside bodies, both to look at current representation on Outside Bodies, and if there is any other groups which may require Eden District Council representation, to begin meeting during the 2021/22 municipal year, and thereafter on a bi-annual basis;
4. that any representatives on the Lake District National Park Authority, Lake District National Park Partnership, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and MASCG should be through preference a member from an appropriate ward; and
5. A statement is produced showing the synergies and the purpose of representation between the EDC corporate plan and outside body activities is developed for each approved outside body.

### **3 Report Details**

- 3.1 In February 2020 a Task and Finish Group began a review of Eden District Council's representation on Outside Bodies, and whether improvements could be made to the reporting mechanism.
- 3.2 During the review the Members of the Task and Finish Group surveyed non-Executive membership on Outside Bodies, as well as gathered information from other Authorities on how they deal with Outside Bodies.
- 3.3 The final report of the Task and Finish Group (Appendix 1 to this report) was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 June 2020. After discussion, a further recommendation requesting that a statement be produced showing the synergies and the purpose of representation between the EDC corporate plan and outside body activities is developed for each approved outside body to Council was added, and is included above in the list of recommendations. This was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **4 Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:

- Sustainable;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Connected; and
- Creative

- 4.2 This report meets sustainable corporate priority

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Members who are on Outside Bodies that are not allocated automatically to the Executive were consulted on their experiences in working with Outside Bodies.
- 5.2 After the addition of a further recommendation, this report was accepted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **6 Implications**

#### **6.1 Financial and Resources**

- 6.1.1 Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the Council's stated priorities, as set out in its Council Plan 2019-2023 as agreed at Council on 7 November 2019.

There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

#### **6.2 Legal**

- 6.2.1 Scrutiny committees are not decision making bodies. Any recommendations that this committee makes will need to be considered by the appropriate Member decision making body. It is recognised that Scrutiny provides a valuable contribution to strong corporate governance.
- 6.2.2 This report is being brought before full Council as Council appoint all membership of Outside Bodies

### 6.3 Human Resources

6.3.1 There are no Human Resource implications contained in this report.

### 6.4 Statutory Considerations

<b>Consideration:</b>	<b>Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:</b>
Equality and Diversity	There may be issues to consider regarding Eden District Council having representation on bodies that have a direct community impact regarding equality and diversity. Any recommendations which may have an adverse effect on people with a protected characteristic will be subject to an appropriate Equality Impact assessment.
Health, Social Environmental and Economic Impact	There are no implications contained within this report
Crime and Disorder	There are no implications contained within this report
Children and Safeguarding	There are no implications contained within this report

### 6.5 Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls Required</b>
That the Council is perceived to be not representing itself with outside organisations, or that it is not maintaining transparency	This could be perceived as fault of the Council. There could be a perception of a lack of contact with communities of Eden.	That regular oversight be maintained over Outside Bodies, that assistance be given to Members in understand their roles on Outside Bodies, and that adequate support is given to any Member who is asked to be a trustee

## 7 Other Options Considered

7.1 No other options have been considered

## 8 Reasons for the Decision/Recommendation

8.1 The recommendations outlined in this report will help the Council to make a fully informed decision regarding the Council's participation on outside bodies, and give Members more assurance that their work on Outside Bodies will be open and transparent

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Final report of the Outside Bodies Task and Finish Review Group

## **Appendix 2 – Form for Members**

**Contact Officer:**

**Vivien Little, Member Services Team Leader**