

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 14 October 2025

Report of: Head of Service - Legal & Democratic Services

Title: Councillor Appointment to Exeter Church Charities (Outside Body) and amendment to the Scheme of Delegation

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To appoint Councillor Lucy Haigh to the vacant councillor position in respect of Exeter Church Charities; and

1.2 To grant delegated power to the Head of Service - Legal & Democratic Services and to the Democratic Services Manager to appoint representatives to outside bodies in consultation with group leaders and to update the constitution accordingly.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That Council:

- (1) Approve the appointment of Councillor Lucy Haigh to the vacant councillor position in respect of Exeter Church Charities with immediate effect; and
- (2) that the Head of Service - Legal & Democratic Services and the Democratic Services Manager be granted delegated power in consultation with the Group Leaders to appoint representatives to outside bodies during the course of the Municipal Year and that the constitution is amended accordingly.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 To address councillor representation on outside bodies where required.

3.2 To delegate authority to the Head of Service - Legal & Democratic Services and Democratic Services Manager to make appointments as required throughout the year, negating the requirement for a report to Council.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources

4.1 None.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no financial implications for Council to consider.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 This report raises no legal issues for members.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 Members will note that appointment to outside bodies is addressed at the annual general meeting of full council. There are instances where 'in year' appointments need to be made to outside bodies. Members will note that the proposal is that the appointment of councillors to outside bodies 'in year' is delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with group leaders so that their views are taken into consideration in approving such appointments.

8. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

8.1 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the appointment will ensure that the outside body has council representation and changes throughout the year can be made with the requirement for a report to Council.

9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

9.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

10. Report details:

10.1 There is currently a vacant space on the Exeter Church Charities. Councillor Lucy Haigh has expressed an interest taking on this role.

10.2 During the course of the year, it will be necessary to re-appoint representatives where the term of office expires as well as appointing to outside bodies where vacancy arise or remain unfilled. Appointments to outside bodies tend to be uncontroversial. Accordingly, in order to facilitate the process, it is proposed that a permanent delegated power is granted to the Head of Service - Legal & Democratic Services and Democratic Services Manager, to enable the appointment of councillors to these posts in consultation with the Group Leaders.

10.3 The permanent delegation would be included in the scheme of delegation in the constitution and would remove the need to seek approval from full Council. Group Leader would retain a role in proposed appointments. In the event that Group Leaders considered that full Council input was required, then the decision to appoint could be referred to full Council for resolution. Members will note that appointments of Councillors to outside bodies can be viewed on the City Council website.

10.4 A copy of the current appointments is attached at Appendix A and Members will note that the list is categorised to align with the council's corporate priorities and that the list of outside bodies remains under review to ensure that the various organisations still require members to be appointed.

10.5 It remains the case that where members have been appointed to outside bodies, the requirement to ensure that the appointment is recorded in their register of interests remains.

11. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

11.1 The process contributes to the corporate priority of operating a well-run council by reducing the administrative burden of 'in year' appointments to outside bodies whilst ensuring that input from Group Leaders remains in place. "A Well-Run Council."

12. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

12.1 There are no risks associated with the proposals.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 None

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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