

## WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

### APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

**MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2022-2023**

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment	
<b>Name of Member</b>	Chris Johnson	
<b>Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc</b>	Representative for Wokingham Borough Council	
<b>Number of meetings called to attend</b>	2	
<b>Number of Meetings attended</b>	1 - Apologies given for 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022	
<b>Reasons for not attending, if appropriate</b>	Second meeting was scheduled as remote, which I could attend while working overseas, but it was changed to on site by the AWE staff, with remote option removed.	
<b>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</b> Safe operations of AWE Research facilities in Berkshire. Scrutiny of all reported incidents, safety exercise results, and impact of operations on the local communities. Review of statutory functions and evacuation plans and implications. Review of planning processes where MoD have overarching authority within the newly expanded DEPZ. Report on establishments engagement with communities and schools and standing within the industry and local businesses.		
<b>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</b> An extensive and detailed pack was provided and fully enabled me to fulfil the role.		
<b>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</b> This establishment has possibly the toughest and most stringent environmental targets of any industry in the UK. As reported in the November meeting, between July and September 2022, 99.8% of waste was diverted from Landfill with an Environmental Management Target of 98%. Reused, was 1.6% of the volume, recycled 97.5%, 0.5% recovered and 0.2% disposed. This is an example of what can be achieved with the right attitude and controls, a true beacon for the Climate Emergency. The safety record has been maintained with 12 injury reports within the 12 months to October 2022. Environmental discharge is a key control item for the industry, with zero contamination to the water course or sewer from Burfield.		
<b>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</b>		<b>Yes/No</b>
<b>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</b>  This Government facility carries out activities that can have a serious impact on the local population and its procedures and care in delivering its function, should be held to scrutiny by WBC members. Additionally, the establishment has overarching powers regarding planning and building activities within a controlled zone ( DEPZ), which		

reaches into the western areas of the Borough, primarily Grazeley, Shinfield and Swallowfield. There is also an emergency evacuation zone encroaching into the same areas, affecting a not insubstantial number of WBC residents. The Planning zone borders were recently expanded by the MoD which has an impact on the South of the M4 SDL. It is therefore essential that WBC is represented on this Committee to be briefed regarding the safe operations of the facility, incidents and resolutions and all and any changes to the evacuation zone and procedures and the DEPZ. Decisions made by this establishment and the controlling Ministry, have a substantial impact on activities and planning decisions conducted within the boundaries of West Berkshire and Wokingham Borough, councils, and the safety and welfare of the surrounding communities.

This representative position should be continued.

**Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful**

The third and final meeting of the Committee for this municipal year, will be at Aldermaston on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, which I will be attending in person.

The embedded minutes of the November meeting, identify on page 6, the activities surrounding the redetermination of the DEPZ and the associated plans and publications, are due to result in updated public documents in April 2023.



LLC 106 Minutes  
Published.pdf

**Councillor:** Chris Johnson

**Dated:** 15 March 2023