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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Age Concern (Twyford)	
Name of Member	Lindsay Ferris	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer	
Number of meetings called to attend	10 meetings	
Number of Meetings attended	5 meetings	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with WBC meetings	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Age Concern Twyford provides facilities for older people to attend during the day. Many activities are arranged during the days including singing, flower arrangements, quiz's etc, as well as providing lunch.</p>		
<p>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?</p> <p>Yes, I was provided with the appropriate documentation and took part in detailed discussions with the Trustees, during the regular monthly Meetings.</p>		
<p>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?</p> <p>AGE Concern Twyford is a very effective organisation. Residents become members and make a payment for the services. WBC also sponsor a growing number of residents. They are an increasing partner in providing Adult Social Care functions and a meeting between Age Concern Twyford and WBC Adult Social Services has been arranged to discuss how both parties can work together better to mutual benefit, particularly as demand for these services is on the increase.</p>		
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>		Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>There is a close working relationship between WBC & Age Concern Twyford.</p>		
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p>		

Councillor: L T H Ferris

Dated: 07 Feb 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Age UK Berkshire	
Name of Member	Laura Blumenthal	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer	
Number of meetings called to attend	0	
Number of Meetings attended	0	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	I never received an invite	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. N/A		
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? None		
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? N/A		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
The Council needs to look into why no invites were received and what contribution they'd like members to make		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
As above		

Councillor: LAURA BLUMENTHAL

Dated: 06.03.24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	AWE	
Name of Member	Christopher Johnson	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	LLC WBC Member Representative	
Number of meetings called to attend	3	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	On overseas deployment with no substitute permitted	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Detailed presentations of regulatory functions, assessments and incident reports. Including DEPZ considerations, incident training and community involvement and publications.</p>		
<p>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?</p> <p>Detailed agendas and updates and prompt notifications</p>		
<p>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?</p> <p>AWE are very community conscious and meets all of its commitments the councils concerned with this establishments functions. The organisation has taken numerous actions to promote local council targeted aims in regard to Transport, and Climate Emergency and Education.</p>		
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>		Yes/No
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>Representation ensures the aims of WBC are represented to a very important national organisation. It ensures WBC are well briefed on the essential safety activities and considerations that affect the local community. It brings a level of communication that has marked benefits to WBC in its planning functions</p>		

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Attached with this document is the unredacted minutes of the previous meeting, where the fatal incident resulting in the loss of a Balfor Beatty employee. This incident was during construction work and did not involve fissile material. ONR has overarching responsibility for investigation, rather than the HSE as expected elsewhere.

There are additional incidents reported which are also listed in the minutes attached.

Councillor: Chris Johnson

Dated: 4 March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Maestros
Name of Member	Sarah Kerr
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer
Number of meetings called to attend	9
Number of Meetings attended	6
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash of meetings
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.	
Berkshire Maestros continues to provide music lessons to children in Berkshire. Berkshire Maestros is expanding it's offering beyond traditional peripatetic music tuition and music ensembles into projects for social value such as dementia choirs, children in care choirs and other projects and teaching for adults as well as children.	
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?	
We receive detailed agendas and reports prior to each meeting. The organisation has also been going through the process of re-looking at its aims and objectives and I have been involved in this process and able to contribute.	
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?	
Berkshire Maestros is an integral part of providing music tuition in the borough and across the county. It provides a range of services including first access teaching to children in primary schools, and seeks to provide opportunities to children from a diverse range of backgrounds. As outlined above, it is further expanding it's reach which coincides with the Council's vision and priorities, and we are forming an excellent partnership with the organisation.	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	<u>Yes/No</u>
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative	
It's important that we work in a joined-up manner and Berkshire Maestros will be integral in helping WBC deliver on it's arts and culture strategy.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	

Councillor: Sarah Kerr

Dated: 22nd February 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Woodley Aviation Museum	
Name of Member	Councillor Anthony Skuse	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer	
Number of meetings called to attend	2	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Overseas	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Painting of Aircraft. Parking issues relating to people using their free car park to visit Dinton Pastures.		
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? Very little and so not really.		
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? Not really relevant, operates as an independant outside body. They requested some assistance from the council which we were unable to provide.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative There is some benefit in co ordinating over contentious issues such as parking.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor:
Anthony Skuse

Dated: 5th March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel
Name of Member	Stephen Charles Newton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Representative for Wokingham Borough Council
Number of meetings called to attend	4
Number of Meetings attended	4
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Advisory Panel meets with the Berkshire Pension Fund Committee and can provide input to the discussion, but Advisory Panel members do not have the right to vote.</p> <p>During the past year the Berkshire Pension Fund Committee has reviewed performance reports and Policies as well as provided direction to the scheme administrators on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management • Governance • Scheme Administration • Responsible Investment • Communication Strategy • Investment Performance • Investment Pooling <p>There has also been a change in the Head of Pension Fund during the year.</p>	
<p>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?</p> <p>I completed online training when appointed and also met with the Pension Fund Committee Chair and Head of Pension Fund shortly after my appointment.</p> <p>Other documents are available on the Berkshire Pension Fund website.</p> <p>The Pension Fund Committee Chair and Head of Pension Fund have always welcomed my questions and provided appropriate responses to help with my understanding.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or</p>	

contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?

The Berkshire Pension Fund provides pensions for thousands of former and current employees of Wokingham Borough Council as well as other Berkshire councils and bodies.

The Fund agreed a new Investment Strategy prior to my appointment to help bridge the gap between available assets and the anticipated liabilities. Despite the very challenging environment of high inflation increasing the liabilities and high interest rates and low growth impacting investment returns, the Pension Fund has improved the asset:liability ratio during the year.

Scheme Administration has been consistently good.

Governance has been consistently good.

I have been pushing for the Berkshire Pension Fund to complete its historic audits throughout the year. Unfortunately, this has not been completed as the Berkshire Pension Fund is treated as a sub fund of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council and the Council has not completed its own outstanding audits. I believe that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council will use the 'backstop' opportunity introduced by the UK Government to avoid completing these audits and I am not happy with this. The failure to complete the outstanding audits has consequences for Wokingham Borough Council and all the other bodies that are employers within the Berkshire Pension Fund in respect of their own historic audits. Requests to be provided with the necessary assurances to close this out as far as Wokingham Borough Council's outstanding audits are concerned, have not been unsuccessful.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

Wokingham Borough Council is a major employer and contributor within the Berkshire Pension Fund.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

I believe that the Berkshire Pension Fund is making progress in addressing its funding needs to meet its liabilities, although this will take a long time.

The Berkshire Pension Fund Committee is carrying out its duties competently and is well led.

It is disappointing that due to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead being the Administering Authority that the Audit of the Berkshire Pension Fund will not be completed due to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead not completing their outstanding audits and relying on the 'backstop' arrangements introduced by HM Government. This provides a level of risk and uncertainty to all Berkshire Pension Fund employers as well as impacting the ability to complete their own outstanding audits.

Councillor: Stephen Newton

Dated: 11th March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Citizens Advice
Name of Member	Rachel Bishop-Firth
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Council Representative
Number of meetings called to attend	Two
Number of Meetings attended	One
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Suggested meeting was in my work time.
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.	
<p>Wokingham Borough Council commissions Citizens Advice to provide a broad range of advice services to Wokingham Residents through the core contract. This includes employment, family, debt etc. CA are also a member of the Hardship Alliance, run the 'One Front Door' Advice service for residents, and provide key targeted support in a number of areas to fight poverty. Finally, WBC commission CA to provide specialist services such as debt advice to residents who are in arrears on council tax. Because of the support which WBC provide to CA through the core contract, CA are able to develop a number of specialist services such as dedicated energy advice and support to people with emotionally unstable personality disorders.</p>	
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?	
<p>I have worked closely with Citizens Advice for a number of years and have a good background knowledge. We discussed how we could improve and streamline the data provided to the council which the representative could benefit from in turn.</p>	
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?	
<p>CA are a key partner for the council in the provision of a number of critical services to residents. They are on the Hardship Alliance and have been critical in delivering the Cost of Living Crisis response. This includes acting as a partner in distribution of the grant of Household Support Fund money from central government.</p>	
Do you think the Council should continue to be	Yes

represented on this Outside Body?	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative	
We continue to work closely with Citizens Advice and a close dialogue is essential.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	
One Front Door is ending in June 2024 as the temporary government funding originally provided as part of the national Covid response has ended. OFD is a triage service to signpost the additional calls received during the Covid emergency and then the Cost of Living Crisis. The council will continue to fund the core services provided pre-Covid. As laid out in the Tackling Poverty Strategy the council is working to transition the signposting services currently provided by OFD to a sustainable model.	

Councillor:
Rachel Bishop-Firth

Dated:
11th March 2023

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Finchampstead Baptist Church Advisory Board	
Name of Member	David Cornish	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Advisory Board Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	3	
Number of Meetings attended	2 (third meeting is on 18/3/24)	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
<p>Growing community activities in the Finchampstead Baptist Centre. Focus on managing FBC running costs. Working alongside Gorse Ride redevelopment. Establishment of new Community Centre in Arborfield Green. Advice to Bohunt School on reaching out to youth groups in Arborfield.</p>		
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?		
Good initial conversation with the principal.		
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?		
The FBC works closely with young people but also the wider community in the north part of Finchampstead and Arborfield. It has played a key role in visioning the community centre for Arborfield Green.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No YES	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
Excellent forum for being in touch with the community grassroots.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: David Cornish

Dated: 6/3/24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Keep Mobile
Name of Member	Laura Blumenthal
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer
Number of meetings called to attend	5
Number of Meetings attended	1
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Conflicts with other meetings and commitments
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Staff updates, training, insurance, vehicle maintenance, financial and people supported figures, volunteer numbers.	
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? None. My role was unclear and informal	
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? It certainly supports people who need it to remain active in the local community, contribute to the local economy and enjoy local parks, clubs high streets and amenities.	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative For	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful It would be beneficial to know what role the member has when attending and what value they can add	

Councillor: LAURA BLUMENTHAL

Dated: 05.03.24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	LGA General Assembly	
Name of Member	Stephen Conway (on behalf of the four nominated councillors)	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	attender	
Number of meetings called to attend	one	
Number of Meetings attended	one	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/a	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The LGA Conference provides an opportunity for the nominated councillors attending to learn about best practice in local government and to receive advise on problems affecting all councils.		
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?		
An agenda was published in advance of the conference, which enabled the councillors attending to decide which sessions to join.		
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?		
The conference was very useful is providing insights into the activities of and challenges faced by other councils.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
An opportunity to learn much of value.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
The LGA is a key organization that lobbies on behalf of councils on a non-party basis.		

Councillor: Stephen Conway

Dated: 4 March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Mid and West Berks Local Access Forum	
Name of Member	Wayne Smith	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend		
Number of Meetings attended		
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	All meetings are during the day and it's impossible with a day job.	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
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?		
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?		
We are well represented and yes very important.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
Very important group but needs someone who is available during the day.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Wayne Smith

Dated: 10/3/24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Readibus	
Name of Member	Mike Smith	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Board Director	
Number of meetings called to attend	6	
Number of Meetings attended	3	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clashes with 2 Wokingham Borough Full Council meetings and 1 Royal Berks Fire and Rescue Service Management Committee budget meeting – note I am the RBFRS Lead on Finance. meetings	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
As a Board member, we receive and advise on reports from the General Manager and take strategic decisions.		
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?		
Comprehensive Board papers and minutes of previous meetings as would be expected of a properly constituted Board of a Charity.		
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?		
READIBUS provides much need mobility to those with limited ability to get out of their dwellings without assistance, funded by WBC concessionary bus passes particularly for the elderly to a total of £65,000. As such it really helps those that need help most in a highly cost effective manner and helps WBC avoid excessive Adult Social Care costs if it had to provide similar services directly.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
Wokingham provides grant funding of the services of a significant value, therefore it is appropriate to have a seat on the board of the charity		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
READIBUS provides a point to point service taking those with mobility issues to hospital and GP appointments, shopping trips and much more and is somewhat unique. It is highly cost effective and has been providing the service for decades. It's main customer of Reading Borough Council but a significant number of Wokingham residents benefit.		

Councillor: MH SMITH

Dated: 27 Feb 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service	
Name of Member	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Wbc Representative	
Number of meetings called to attend	50	
Number of Meetings attended	48	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	On holiday for two days	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
Automatic Fire alarm activation, response times to fires, dealing with fires in tall buildings, improving sustainability in the fire service,		
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?		
I received regular briefing in my area from officers and attended Fire authority meetings and had discussions about electric cars fire risks after accidents. Also discussions and briefings of EDI especially in conversions of dormitories to individual rooms for privacy. Also the of replacement of petrol powered vehicles to electric vehicles rather than petrol and provision of solar panels on fire stations and electric charging points at stations.		
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?		
They are important for the safety of Wokingham from fires in buildings and help with road accidents and the provision of safe and well visits which helps with Adult Social care		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
With the extent of more home building continuing in the Borough we need to know about safety of buildings and residents		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
RBFRS		

Councillor: Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Dated: 04/03/2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Sonning & District Welfare and Educational Trust	
Name of Member	Michael Firmager	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	2	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with a Wokingham Borough Council meeting	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The Trust provides welfare support for individuals in need or distress over the area of the old Parish of Sonning by means of grants.		
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?		
None.		
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?		
It is effective in what it does, especially during these hard economic times.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
This should continue because the Trust provides an effective and necessary function.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Michael Firmager

Dated: 11 February 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM
MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	South East Employers organisation	
Name of Member	Clive Jones	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer	
Number of meetings called to attend	1	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
There are very regular and informative updates from the organisation that cover topical political events.		
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?		
None		
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?		
It's a very good place for information.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
The amount of information coming out of the organisation makes it worthwhile.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Clive Jones

Dated: 5th March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Standing Conference on Archives	
Name of Member	Stephen Conway	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC representative	
Number of meetings called to attend	four	
Number of Meetings attended	three	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	On holiday	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The Standing Conference on Archives oversees the activities of the Berkshire Record Office (Now Royal Berkshire Archives). It comprises representatives of all six Berkshire unitary councils, archives staff, and users.		
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?		
Agendas are published in advance, and I meet with the chief archivist before the meeting for a briefing (I am the chair).		
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?		
The standing conference gives the six Berkshire unitary councils (which fund the record office) to oversee its activities.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
The conference provides an opportunity to make sure Wokingham's contribution is value for money.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
The standing conference was established when the old county council was abolished.		

Councillor: Stephen Conway

Dated: 4 March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group of the LGA (SASIG)	
Name of Member	Pauline Jorgensen	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	2 online	
Number of Meetings attended	2	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate		
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. SASIG produces a large body of reference material and advises consultation responses related to aviation and future technology.</p>		
<p>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? Yes, but large volumes of it was not directly relevant to our area being more concerned with matters relating to technological developments, slots etc.</p>		
<p>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? I think it's very effective as an expert body, but I am not sure it is worth retaining Membership.</p>		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		No
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative Whilst it is interesting it seems largely only directly relevant to councils nearer to airports.</p>		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Pauline Jorgensen

Dated: 11/2/24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership	
Name of Member	Ian Pittock	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Board Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	3	
Number of Meetings attended	3 incl 1 which was an investment working group	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
Direct management of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area, its maintenance and improvements. It takes the funds provided to 6 local authorities by housing developers and invests these to ensure financing for 80 years from receipt.		
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?		
Briefing papers were provided, along with last year's board papers. The previous member, David Cornish, also provided a briefing. This was sufficient.		
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?		
The organisation works very well, the area is well maintained and a range of improvements are in hand. A publicity campaign exists to encourage use of the area, along with the SANGS run by the local authorities. The indication is that the funds will last for the 80 years.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No YES	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
WBC has £millions invested by the Board and resident's benefit from the well maintained area of nature.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
The TBHSPA exists to protect ground nesting birds that would be damaged by an increasing local population, it came from a European Commission Directive and is now enshrined in UK law.		

Councillor: Ian Pittock

Dated: 28 February 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	The Piggott Trust	
Name of Member	Graham Howe	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee	
Number of meetings called to attend	2	
Number of Meetings attended	2	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	n/a	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The trust was formed nearly 100 years ago to make chargeable disbursements to local pupils and students to aid their educational advancement.		
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?		
As an ongoing Trustee, now appointed independently of the WBC I have had a full briefing on the Trust Deeds, assets and finances of the Piggott Trust		
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?		
The Piggott Trust, along with WBC concerns itself with the affordability advancement of education for all local children. The Trust also owns the land the Wargrave schools occupy.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No - YES	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
It keeps WBC informed of local on the ground needs of local children as regards their affordability of educational needs.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Graham Howe

Dated: 5th March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Polehampton Charity	
Name of Member	Stephen Conway	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC representative and trustee	
Number of meetings called to attend	six	
Number of Meetings attended	five	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with WBC meeting	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The Polehampton Charity makes charitable donations to residents of Twyford, Ruscombe, and Charvil to help with cases of financial hardship.		
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?		
Agendas are published in advance. Email exchanges between meetings allow for the approval of urgent matters.		
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?		
The Polehampton Charity works with the Hardship Alliance to help deliver aid to those in need. It has entered into a long-term lease arrangement with the council to enable it to open a new library in Twyford, in an historic building owned by the Polehampton Charity.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
The Polehampton Charity helps residents in the northern part of the borough and it makes sense to coordinate its activities with those of the Hardship Alliance.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
The Polehampton Charity has been dispensing support for the local community for more than three-hundred years.		

Councillor: Stephen Conway

Dated: 4 March 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	The Poores Land Charity	
Name of Member	Jane Ainslie	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee	
Number of meetings called to attend	Monthly	
Number of Meetings attended	6 (3 missed)	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Missed due to work commitments and annual leave	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The Poores Land Charity manages almshouses in Woodley along with a flat for people facing financial hardship.		
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?		
A very detailed folder with annual accounts, a background to the charity, minutes of the last meeting and copies of the Almshouse Association Magazine that gives a broader context to the role of Almshouses.		
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?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enriching lives – provides security for those facing financial hardship enabling them to have time to focus on work, family and interests • Safe, strong communities – many of the people supported by The Poores Land Charity otherwise face a vulnerable time in insecure accommodation or sofa surfing. The Almshouse provides a much safer, secure home. • Right homes, right places – a lifeline for those unable to afford their own home 		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
The Poores Land Charity supports local residents facing financial hardship. Having a representative of the council improves access as needed.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Jane Ainslie

Dated: 05.03.24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	White Waltham Airfield Consultative Committee	
Name of Member	Wayne Smith	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	4	
Number of Meetings attended	3	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Day Job- Work	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
General updates on Airport activities.		
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?		
Yes		
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?		
More important to Royal Borough, but useful to understand any changes.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes/No	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
Future developments.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Wayne Smith

Dated: 10/03/24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Borough Sports Council (WBSC) Wokingham Borough Sports Sponsorship Fund (WBSSF)
Name of Member	Ian Shenton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Committee Member
Number of meetings called to attend	None
Number of Meetings attended	None
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. N/A.	
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? N/A	
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? The organisation's effectiveness has been under review, with consideration being given to refocus support on the Junior Hardship Fund (providing help with memberships fees, equipment etc) and the Inclusivity and Diversity Project Fund (to assist the setup of teams). That will open up wider opportunities.	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes, if it continues as an outside body.
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative Should it continue as an outside body, the objective would be to break down barriers that exist preventing a wider cross-section of residents from taking part in physical activity and sport, and so the council should be represented.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	

Councillor: I C Shenton

Dated: 16/02/2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Job Support Centre Management Committee	
Name of Member	Andrew Gray	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee	
Number of meetings called to attend	2	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	One meeting fell during the working day and I had work commitments.	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
<p>Wokingham Job Support Centre support adults in applying for jobs and writing and targeting CVs. They work with a number of residents giving targeted support to help secure jobs, particularly for residents who may face particular barriers to entering the job market.</p>		
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?		
<p>I went to one initial meeting to discuss the aims and objectives of the organisation and see some of the work they do. They discussed future plans and the challenges faced with the organisation and how they have used funding in their organisation.</p>		
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?		
<p>The organisation does contribute towards the council's vision in making a positive contribution to residents in the borough seeking support with finding and applying for jobs. Their work is well targeted and supports the borough's wider economy.</p>		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
<p>The organisation received some financial support from WBC so it is useful to have the link with WBC.</p>		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Andrew Gray

Dated: 18/02/24

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Volunteer Centre
Name of Member	Rachel Burgess
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Representative/observer
Number of meetings called to attend	0
Number of Meetings attended	0
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	NB this role does not sit on the broad of trustees so there was no <i>requirement</i> to attend any meetings
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.	
<p>The key areas covered by Wokingham Volunteer Service are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer brokerage service; - Green n Tidy gardening service for older and vulnerable residents; - Community transport scheme, helping older residents to get to medical appointments or other activities. 	
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?	
<p>Key developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2024 represents the organisation's 50th anniversary year and an event is being planned in August 2024 to celebrate volunteers over the years; - Due to a very high waiting list for the Green n Tidy gardening service the decision has been taken to expand the service in order to reach more people in need. This has involved a new van and an expanded team of volunteers; - A well-run and well-attended Volunteer Fair was held in February 2024 which I attended; - An Annual Public Meeting was held in October 2024 celebrating past achievements as well as looking ahead; - Updates were provided to me by the Chief Officer regarding the board of trustees, policies and funding. 	

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?

The organisation has contributed to the Council's vision and priorities, in particular with regard to:

- Enriching lives
- Safe, strong communities
- A clean and green borough

This has been achieved through its three main activities:

Volunteering

The charity works effectively to promote and recruit volunteers for local charities, through its volunteering portal, a matching service and by holding regular recruitment fairs.

Green 'n' Tidy

Green 'n' Tidy provides a basic gardening service for elderly, disabled or vulnerable residents of Wokingham Borough who cannot maintain their own properties.

Having joined in with sessions previously, I am extremely impressed by this operation – the well-motivated teams of volunteers are valued by residents not just for their gardening skills but also for their friendly interactions with residents, some of whom may experience loneliness and social isolation. This is an excellent team that provides a valuable service for residents, and I am very pleased to see it has recently expanded.

Community Transport

The Community Transport schemes provides a personal service to support to older and vulnerable residents, helping them get to medical appointments or other activities. This also contributes to improvements in mental and physical health through reducing loneliness and isolation, in particular now the service has been extended to cover social activities.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes/No

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

The charity provides some valuable services in our community, and it is important for the Council to have this link into the charity and its activities, to ensure partnership working continues to be effective.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor: Rachel Burgess

Dated: 19 February 2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Waterside Centre	
Name of Member	Andy Croy	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Director	
Number of meetings called to attend	4	
Number of Meetings attended	3	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Personal reasons	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Fee structure Possible loss of land to green spaces Replenishing assets Other organisations use of facilities Charitable work Events</p>		
<p>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?</p> <p>A tour and document pack.</p>		
<p>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?</p> <p>No evidence of awareness of WBC visions and priorities BUT the service and opportunities it provides (on the Thames) are unique in the Borough.</p>		
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>		Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR having a representative</p> <p>The Waterside Centre is a significant recreational asset owned by the Borough.</p>		
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p>		

Councillor: Andy Croy

Dated: 11.03.2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	ARC Youth counselling	
Name of Member	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member of the Executive	
Number of meetings called to attend	6	
Number of Meetings attended	4	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Conflicting council meetings	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Counselling in schools, working with young people, inability of CAMS to meet demand.		
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? Yes, i was previously a BACP trained counsellor		
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? Very effective helping young people to deal with serious mental health issues since CAMHS is unable to keep up with the demand. It helps young people deal with issues so they can prosper.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Dated: 06/03/2024

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023-2024

Name of Organisation	Woodley Town Centre Management Imitative	
Name of Member	Andy Croy & Tony Skuse	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	4 and 4	
Number of Meetings attended	3 and 2	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Family reasons	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
The support of activities and events in Woodley Town. Consideration of a Business Improvement District Consideration of ASB in the precinct, steps to be taken and steps to procure a suitable CCTV		
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? None.		
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?		
I can see no evidence of any awareness of the WBC visions and priorities BUT the WTCMI is clearly a champion and partner is achieving the best possible future for Woodley Town and has value in that respect.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
The Borough provides some funding. Many of the issues raised at WTCI may have – or are perceived to have – a Borough dimension. It is vital someone is there who can bring to balance to the discussions which can take on an anti WBC flavour.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		
The WTCMI has an open structure, meaning anyone can can turn up and talk, which can be very useful. Much of the meeting is taken up with Executive detail, such as going through a financial update, rather than items that are of interest to the public.		

Woodley Town Council is heavily represented so it often feels like an “arms-length” version of WTC, it allows WTC to say “Ahh..that is WTCMI” , while WTCMI itself is so starved of funds it cannot take any but the most basic actions without extra funding from other bodies.

The representations made by Woodley Town Councillors make also reflect the politics of Woodley. In particular the tacit support (agenda time) given the Conservative petition on car parking changes was clearly an inappropriate use of the time of the meeting.

Members on this group have to be prepared to challenge what may be the accepted narrative in the room.

Councillor: Andy Croy

Dated: 11.03.2024

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