

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 14 NOVEMBER 2013

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES – SEVERN GORGE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: LAW, DEMOCRACY & PUBLIC PROTECTION

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR KULDIP SAHOTA

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Following a review of its corporate governance arrangements, the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust has requested that the Council appoint three representatives to its Board of Trustees.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That three representatives be appointed to the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust for the period up to May 2015.**

3.0 INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Council has, for a number of years, appointed five representatives to the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT). The Trust manages, for the benefit of local communities and many thousands of visitors, more than 270 hectares of woodland, grassland, heathland, pools and other public spaces throughout the Ironbridge Gorge and its surroundings. The Trust is a charitable organisation, and the representatives appointed by the Council act as Trustees.
- 3.2 Over the past few months, the Trust has undergone a review of its corporate governance arrangements in order to ensure its continuing effectiveness. This has resulted in a proposal to reduce the size of the Board of Trustees from 16 to 12, with a consequent reduction in the number of Council appointees from 5 to 3.
- 3.3 The majority of appointments to outside bodies for 2013/14 were determined by Cabinet at its June meeting. However, appointments to the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust were deferred, pending the outcome of their review of membership. The current appointees' term of office ran until October 2013. Because of their role as Trustees, the SGCT has requested that the Council's representatives be appointed for a longer period than twelve months – and preferably for four years. This would bring greater continuity in membership,

and allow the Trustees to build up their expertise. It is therefore proposed that the appointments be made until May 2015 (ie up to the next Borough elections), following which appointments to the Trust would be for a four year period – to mirror the Council elections cycle.

- 3.4 The political Groups have been asked to submit nominations for the three representatives to be appointed to SGCT. Nominees do not have to be Elected Members. Nominations have been received for Cllr D Davies, Cllr G Green, Ms L Lomax and Cllr C Turley.

4.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

AREA

COMMENTS

Equality & Diversity

Not applicable

Environmental Impact

Not applicable

Legal Implications

The representatives appointed to the Trust take on the role of Trustees and Directors of a company limited by guarantee

Opportunities & Risks

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links with Corporate Priorities

Not applicable

Ward Implications

Not applicable

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Report prepared by Phil Smith, Democratic Services Team Leader – (01952-383211)