



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Council

23 November 2023

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

Appointments to Outside Bodies and Committees

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide Full Council with an opportunity to appoint to two Outside Bodies. There is also a vacancy for the South Kesteven Coalition Group on the Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Approves the appointment of one elected representative, with one reserve to sit on the Rural Services Network outside body.
2. Approves the appointment of one elected representative to sit on the Grantham Almshouse Charity outside body.
3. Approves any appointments or changes to the membership of other Outside Bodies
4. Approves the appointment of the nomination from the South Kesteven Coalition Group for one seat on the Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
5. Approves any other nominations from Political Groups to make appointments or changes to the membership of Committees.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All

Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 It is understood that neither outside body has any requirement for the Council's appointment to reflect its political balance, and therefore any member of the Council would be eligible for appointment.

Reviewed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

Rural Services Network

- 2.1 Democratic Services was contacted after the Full Council meeting held on 20 July 2023 to ask for the name of an elected representative, plus one reserve member from the Council to attend the Rural Services Network.

- 2.2 It does not appear that the Council has previously appointed to this body; the body reported that two South Kesteven Councillors had previously been appointed, but there is no record of this in Council minutes from the previous electoral cycle. The Rural Services Network has not previously sent annual reminders for appointments to the authority.
- 2.3 The Rural Services Network is a membership organisation that exists as a national champion for rural services. They campaign on behalf of their membership for fair funding for rural areas, and also work to share best practice and network across their wide membership.
- 2.4 Nominated Members are requested to attend 4 meetings a year, all held online via zoom. They generally last two hours. Invitations to the meetings are circulated in advance and the Nominated Member can book on through a system called Eventbrite and they will then receive joining instructions and full papers for the event via email. There is no requirement for the representative to be the Leader of the Council, but they do require a reserve member.
- 2.5 Further information on the body is available on the body's own website:

<https://www.rsonline.org.uk/>

Grantham Almshouse Charity and Rural and Communities OSC

- 2.6 Councillor Ray Wootten of the Grantham St. Wulfram's Ward sadly passed away on 27 August 2023. A by-election has since been held on 9 November 2023, with Councillor Matt Bailey being the successful candidate. As he has joined the South Kesteven Coalition Group, there is no change to political balance.
- 2.7 Ray Wootten's passing has left a vacancy on the Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee and also on the Grantham Almshouse Charity Trustees Outside Body. Ray was formerly the Chair of the Trustees.
- 2.8 The Grantham Almshouse Charity is a provider of low-cost accommodation for those in need in Grantham.¹The Charity, run by Trustees covers the Diocese of Grantham, which includes Great Gonerby, Londonthorpe, Woolsthorpe and Stroxton.²

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 One representative from Full Council, plus one reserve representative is required to serve on the Rural Services Network Outside Body.

¹ <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/224721/charity-overview>

² <https://grantham.nub.news/news/local-news/grantham-almshouses-expand-their-search-area-for-residents>

- 3.2 One representative from Full Council is required to serve on the Grantham Almshouse Charity Outside Body.
- 3.3 The South Kesteven Coalition Group is invited to propose one Member to the Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 To propose other nominations for appointments to Outside Bodies.
- 4.2 To make any other changes to the membership of Committees.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 To ensure that the Council has sufficient representation on Committees and Outside Bodies and in other roles deemed necessary or appropriate.