

**COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2026**

**PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT:      NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

REPORT OF: Director - Governance

COUNCIL PRIORITY: All Priorities

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1.1       | To consider appointing a Member Representative to the Baldock Community Centre Association 2025 and to note that the Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association and the Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board were no longer active bodies.<br><br><i><b>N.B. If a Member is nominated to or is on an outside body, they have an Interest under the Code of Conduct, they must comply with the Code requirements Section 17, Appendix B – Constitution <a href="#">[page click here]</a>. If unclear, seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer.</b></i> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2.1.      | That Council nominate and approve <b>one</b> Member to the outside organisation the Baldock Community Centre Association 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2.2.      | That Council note that the Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and the Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association are no longer active and will be removed from the list of appointments the Council makes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.1.      | To comply with the provision of Standing Order 4.4.1(h) of the Council's Constitution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**4.      ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1.    To not appoint a Member representative to the organisation.

**5.      CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

5.1.    Group Leaders were reminded of the vacancy on Wednesday 26 August and were requested to make nominations to this position to be considered at Council on 8 October 2026.

5.2.    Details on the reasons for removal of the Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and the Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association as outside organisations are provided in section 7 of this report.

5.3. No other consultation took place with Members or External Organisations.

## **6. FORWARD PLAN**

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## **7. BACKGROUND**

7.1. Councillors may be appointed to varying organisations with differing roles, these are defined as outside bodies. In some instances, Councillors will be bringing their experience, knowledge and expertise flowing from their appointment as a Councillor and in other instances the appointment will be distinct from your Councillor appointment.

7.2. The role of Councillors on outside bodies will depend on the nature of the outside body and the capacity in which you are appointed. Whilst they are independent from the Council they may have an impact on service areas. In order that the Council can maintain effective partnerships with a number of these organisations elected Members are appointed to sit on the various committees and forums that are responsible for these bodies.

7.3. Section 4.8.1(b)(iv) of the Council's Constitution ("Standing Orders") states that at the Annual Meeting, the Council will "receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and outside body".

7.4. Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(v) states that at the Annual Meeting, the Council will also "make appointments to those Committees and nominations to outside bodies, except where nomination to those bodies has been delegated by the Council or is exercisable by the Cabinet".

### **Baldock Community Centre Association 2025**

7.5. At Annual Council on 21 May 2026, a point was raised as to whether the appointment of a Councillor to the Baldock Community Centre Association 2025 would be in conflict with a position they held on the outside body that the council previously appointed to known as Baldock Youth & Community Association, following which the nomination was withdrawn. Therefore, a vacancy remains on this outside organisation.

### **Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board**

7.6. At Annual Council on 21 May 2026, Councillor Emma Fernandes was appointed as the Member Representative on the Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board. On notifying the body of this appointment, the Council was advised that Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board had been dissolved formally in February 2026 and was amalgamated into a single statutory entity, the Upper Ouse Water Management Board, from 1 April 2026.

7.7. The Upper Ouse Water Management Board required only one appointed member to serve from either Buckinghamshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council or North Herts Council.

- 7.8. It was confirmed by the Upper Ouse Water Management Board via email on 11 June 2026 that a representative from Buckinghamshire Council had been appointed, following agreement with the three appointed Members from the respective authorities. Therefore, North Herts Council was no longer required to appoint a Member Representative to this body.
- 7.9. However, Councillor Fernandes was advised that she could attend the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Advisory Board, which would meet two to three times per year, and would discuss important local matters and make recommendations to the main Board.

### **Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association**

- 7.10. At Annual Council on 21 May 2026, Councillor Mick Debenham was appointed as the Member Representative on the Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association. However, following their Annual General Meeting, Councillor Debenham advised via email on 28 June 2026 that this body had decided to dissolve. Therefore, North Herts Council was no longer required to appoint a Member Representative to this body.

## **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1. The Council is required to appoint Member representatives to the vacant Outside Organisation positions. In the interest of transparency, this has been brought to the next ordinary Council meeting, following Annual Council, to consider these appointments.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of this report.
- 9.2. Whilst Annual Council delegated that Political Group Leaders notify the Democratic Services Manager of nominations to the remaining vacancies or any changes to the existing representatives on outside organisations, in the interests of openness and transparency Council is being requested to agree and nominate a District Councillor representative.
- 9.3. Members are required to include any appointments to Outside Organisations or Bodies on their Register of Interests within 28 days of the appointment.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2. Failure to appoint a Member Representative to the outstanding vacancy would leave the Council short of representation on the outside organisation.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements arising from this report.

## **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1. There are no HR implications arising from this report.

## **16. APPENDICES**

- 16.1. None.

## **17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

|                    |                                         |                                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| James Lovegrove    | Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, | James.Lovegrove@north-herts.gov.uk<br>Tel: 01462 474204 |
| Melanie Stimpson   | Democratic Services Manager             | Melanie.Stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk                     |
| Amber Smith-Howell | Policy & Strategy Officer               | Amber.Smith-Howell@north-herts.gov.uk                   |
| Natasha Jindal     | Governance Consultant                   | Natasha.Jindal@north-herts.gov.uk                       |

## **18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 18.1 [Reports and Minutes from Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2026.](#)