

## Representation on Outside Bodies – West Sussex Mediation Service

### Report by the Executive Head of Corporate and Cultural Services

#### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 To consider a request from the West Sussex Mediation Service for a Council representative to become an observer on the Management Committee and make a recommendation to Council.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council appoints a number of representatives to various outside bodies, most recently at the Annual Meeting on 18 May 2012.
- 2.2 The roles expected of the Council representative are varied, from directorships or membership with voting rights to observer status.
- 2.3 Some organisations have specific constitutions offering a position to the Council, some are less formal just seeking council representation.
- 2.4 Council representation can be an elected member or council officer. A number of organisations are closely linked to Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 2.5 The Council does not have to take up every request for a representative and should be mindful of the role required, time required for the role, travelling - time and costs as well as the benefit to each party (the organisation and the council). Ultimately, the Council should consider if there is a benefit to the residents of the Authority's area in the taking up of a request for a representative to attend meetings.

#### 3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 The current request is for an elected member to sit on the Management Committee of the West Sussex Mediation Service, as an observer. To understand what the Service does and how the service can best be used in the Worthing community. The Service believes that a member will give an important link in Worthing and act as a conduit for future services that can be provided in the area.
- 3.2 Meetings of the Service are held quarterly in Horsham usually on Tuesday mornings.

#### **4.0 Legal**

4.1 Involvement in Outside Bodies is part of the key role and duties of a Borough Councillor, as set out in Article 2 of the Constitution.

#### **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 There is likely to be travel costs for the member to attend meetings out of the Borough area.

#### **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 The Leader is requested to consider the request from the West Sussex Mediation Service for an observer to sit on its Management Committee.

6.2 The Leader to make a recommendation to Council on the request considered in 6.1 as follows, to:

(a) accept the request from West Sussex Mediation Service for an observer on the management committee, or

(b) recommend that Council to determines the request, or

(c) defer the request to the annual outside body appointment process in 2013.

6.3 Depending on the decision of Council on the recommendation in 6.2; the Executive Head of Corporate and Cultural Services to take the necessary action to implement the decision.

#### **Local Government Act 1972**

##### **Background Papers:**

Letter from the West Sussex Mediation Service dated 22 May 2012

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## Schedule of Other Matters

### 1.0 Council Priority

1.1 This report relates to two of the Corporate Visions

Continuing to work together in partnership to deliver cost effective services whilst retaining separate identities

Working more closely with and commissioning our communities, the voluntary sector, public organisations, business and commercial sectors to develop and deliver services

### 2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 This report does not relate to any specific Action Plans.

### 3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 5.0 Community Safety issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 8.0 Consultations

8.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 9.0 Risk assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### 12.0 Partnership working

12.1 The report relates to working in partnership with various local organisations