

Gatwick Noise Management Board Community Forum - appointment of a substitute Member

Strategy & Resources Committee - Tuesday, 5 October 2021

Report of: Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Purpose: For recommendation to Full Council

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

Executive summary:

This report is being brought to the meeting following an expression of interest from Councillor Ridge to serve as the Council's substitute Member on the Gatwick Noise Management Board's Community Forum. The Committee is invited to consider Councillor Ridge's request.

This report supports the Council's priority of: Building a better Council

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Recommendation to Committee:

That a recommendation be made to Full Council regarding Councillor Ridge's wish to be the Council's substitute representative on the Gatwick Noise Management Board's Community Forum.

Reason for recommendation:

The appointment or nomination of Members to serve on outside bodies is a matter reserved for Full Council under the delegation arrangements within Part E of the Constitution. Most appointments / nominations are agreed 'en-bloc' at the Council's annual meeting, but those made during a municipal year can be dealt with via recommendations from this Committee.

Introduction and background

- 1 Councillor Lockwood currently represents the Council on various Gatwick Airport related bodies, namely:
 - Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (Councillor Gillman is her substitute)
 - Gatwick Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group
 - Gatwick Noise Management Board

- 2 The Gatwick Noise Management Board's stated 'vision' and 'mission' statements are:

Vision:

To reduce and mitigate Gatwick aircraft noise in a fair and proportionate manner, by balancing the interests of those communities negatively impacted by aircraft noise, and those of Gatwick Airport.

Mission:

To seek to ensure that the airport, and its wider industry partners, identify and effectively implement all safe, reasonable and practical measures to reduce aircraft noise impacts, and to put in place processes for engaging and dealing with the concerns raised by people that are and could be negatively impacted by Gatwick aircraft noise.

- 3 The Board comprises an 'Executive Board'; a 'Delivery Group' and a 'Noise Community Forum'. Councillor Lockwood is the Council's representative on the Noise Community Forum until December 2022.
- 4 At the Council meeting on 22nd July 2021, Councillor Lockwood was nominated to fill a vacant position on the Executive Board. Her appointment was later confirmed by the Chair of the Board (Jonathan Drew) on the 2nd August 2021. At that time, a further seat reserved for a Councillor on the Executive Board remained to be filled. Councillor Ridge expressed an interest in putting himself forward for that position.
- 5 However, following an Officer enquiry, the Board's secretariat confirmed that valid nominees for Executive Board vacancies were restricted to existing members of the Noise Community Forum and that, in any event, no single Local Authority can have two representatives on the Executive Board. Instead, it was suggested that the Council may wish to nominate Councillor Ridge as its substitute representative on the Noise Community Forum whenever Councillor Lockwood is unable to attend. Councillor Ridge has since confirmed that he would like to be nominated in that capacity. The Committee is therefore asked to consider his request and to make a recommendation to Full Council.

6 Should the Council appoint a substitute Member to the Noise Community Forum, the Chair and Secretary would need to be informed prior to his/her attendance in Councillor Lockwood's absence. The substitute Member would also need to be briefed by the Secretariat before attending a meeting in such circumstances.

7 The stated purpose of the Noise Community Forum is:

"To facilitate effective engagement across all community groups negatively impacted by Gatwick noise such that issues are suitably documented and understood. Thereafter, the NCF will engage with the Noise Management Board and the Delivery Group, to facilitate the establishment of a community-wide noise reduction strategy and agreed noise reduction initiatives intended to reduce and mitigate Gatwick noise effects consistent with the Noise Management Board's vision."

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

Subject to any minor travel expenses which maybe claimed (and these can be absorbed in the current revenue budgets as set) there are no financial implications associated with this report.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

In certain circumstances, it is considered prudent for the Council to appoint substitute representatives to outside bodies to ensure representation at all times. However, such appointments are at the discretion of the Council when the organisations allow them to be made.

Equality

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Climate change

The Gatwick related bodies referred to in this report enable public scrutiny of the airport's environmental impacts. The opportunity for Councillor representation is therefore welcomed. However, the merits of appointing a substitute Member to the Community Forum is a matter for this Committee and does not, in itself, present any climate change implications.

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