

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 30 JUNE 2015

Title of report	ELECTED MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE (APSE)
Contact	<p>Councillor Nick Rushton 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Legal and Support Services 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To appoint an elected member to represent the Council at meetings of the Association for Public Service Excellence.
Council Priorities	Value for Money.
Implications:	
Financial/staff	None.
Link to relevant Corporate Action Team	None.
Risk management	None.
Equalities Impact Screening	Not applicable.
Human rights	None.
Transformational Government	None.
Comments of the Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of the Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of the Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees	None
Background papers	None

1.0 ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE (APSE)

1.1 The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is a not-for-profit membership based organisation working with more than 300 local authorities across the UK. APSE's team of advisors also provide specialist briefings, training and events.

1.2 Membership allows access to information and data for benchmarking purposes to support service development and improvements in areas such as;

- waste and refuse
- parks and grounds
- highways
- street lighting
- leisure
- school meals
- housing and building maintenance

1.3 The council subscribed to APSE in 2014/15 on a trial basis for parks, refuse and street cleansing benchmarking data. This was followed up with full membership subscription in April 2015 to include wider services such as;

- Environmental Health (Health and Protection)
- Sports and Leisure Facility Management
- Cemeteries and Crematoria

1.4 Membership also provides the Council with;

- personalised performance indicator standings reports
- summary reports
- direction of travel reports
- comparator reports, tailored to the needs of individual councils
- access to a members only performance web portal
- free training sessions
- peer support visits from experienced members of other local authorities
- one to one training and on-site visits from APSE's principal advisors

1.5 APSE also conducts research and campaigns for a positive role for local government in delivering high quality, effective and efficient local government services. APSE's Research team can be commissioned to conduct specific research for the council. APSE also runs a programme of training events each year which officers and members can participate in at a reduced cost.

2.0 ELECTED MEMBER REPRESENTATION

2.1 As a not-for-profit body owned by member local authorities, APSE is organised on a regional structure, with each region electing a Chair and officers. The Chair and Regional Secretary are automatically members of APSE National Council which sets the policy and determines the main focus of the Association.

- 2.2 APSE welcomes member authorities nominating elected member representatives from their authority. Most member authorities nominate two representatives to ensure there is representation of the authority at APSE meetings.
- 2.3 Being nominated as the elected member APSE representative for a member authority makes those councillors the 'official' councillor contact and this means that the representative(s) will receive the National APSE AGM and Regional AGM convening papers and hold the authority's vote.
- 2.4 Being a nominated representative also allows the elected member(s) to attend interest groups such as advisory groups or seminars on a formal basis on behalf of the authority. Attendance at such events will be considered an approved duty and so the attending councillor(s) will be eligible to claim their expenses back in accordance with the members allowances scheme.
- 2.5 There is no compulsion for the official APSE nominated representative to attend all meetings of APSE but the process of nomination enables the local authority to be represented at those meetings or events which it considers to be of importance or of interest to the authority.
- 2.6 The District Council has agreed to host the Annual General Meeting of APSE at the Council Offices on Wednesday 8 July 2015 and the nominated representative will be expected to attend. Selected officers will also be in attendance. Hosting the event will generate a small income for the authority.