



Report Reference Number: E/18/46

To: Executive
Date: 6 February 2019
Status: Non-key decision
Ward(s) Affected: All
Author: Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Manager
Lead Executive Cllr Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Member:
Lead Officer: Janet Waggott, Chief Executive

Title: Nomination for the Rural Services Network

Summary:

The Rural Services Network (RSN) is a body that campaigns for rural services, ensuring that people's opinions in rural areas are represented and that a fair deal for rural communities is received to maintain their social and economic viability. The RSN has around 140 local authorities as members including Selby District Council. The Council however has not appointed a representative for the RSN Therefore the Executive is asked to consider appointing a representative.

Recommendations:

To appoint a representative to the Rural Services Network.

Reasons for recommendation:

To ensure the District Council's views are taken into account and represented on the Rural Services Network.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 The RSN is the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice. They have four priorities for their work, which are:

- Public Sector Funding
- Barriers to Access

- Future of Rural Areas
- Health and Wellbeing

1.2 The RSN has 140 local authorities as members which includes Selby District Council however the Council has not appointed a representative to the RSN.

2. The Report

2.1 The Rural Services Network has written to all Chief Executives about a number of key issues that rural authorities need to be aware of.

2.2 The correspondence has stated that while the RSN has 140 members, only a third of these authorities have nominated members to the network in relation to meetings and other matters. They have therefore asked all authorities to nominate a representative for the RSN. This is considered as an Executive appointment to an outside body and therefore has been brought before the Executive to consider.

2.3 The RSN has stated that while it acknowledges it may not always be possible for Members to attend meetings, it will be hold regional seminars and introducing a communication specifically for nominated members to ensure those members and their authorities are kept fully updated about the work of RSN on behalf of their members and their communities.

3. Alternative Options Considered

The alternative option is not appoint a member however this means the Council will have no representative on the RSN.

4. Implications

4.1 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from the report.

4.2 Financial Implications

Travel expenses may be incurred for the nominated member attending

5. Conclusion

The Executive is asked to consider appointing a representative to the RSN.

Contact Officer:

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