

**Report of the Assistant
Chief Executive (Legal &
Governance)**

Co-opted Members on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To recommend named individuals to serve as co-opted members on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that:

2.2 The individuals identified in this report be appointed to serve as co-opted members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2.3 The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Governance) be authorised to draw-up in consultation with the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee a revised recruitment and selection process for co-opted members to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2.4 This revised process be implemented for the 2014/15 municipal year.

3. Introduction / Background

3.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has decided that it wishes to retain provision for the public to serve as co-opted members to provide additional expertise and experience to support the OSC's activities. The Committee also agreed that, in line with the principles established by the 'Nolan Committee' - that no one should be nominated (as opposed to being elected) to serve on a public body for more than two substantive terms of, say, four years each - there should be a time limit for any co-options of eight years in total.

3.2 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee concluded that those people who had served as co-opted members of the former scrutiny commissions for fewer than eight years, ought to be given the opportunity to serve as co-opted members of the Committee. The relevant former co-opted members were contacted and three of them, who were all appointed to the scrutiny commissions in 2011, indicated that they wished to serve. They are:

(i) Pauline Gould.

Ms Gould is a member of the Barnsley Civic Trust.

(ii) Joan Whittaker

Ms Whittaker is the chair of the Barnsley Tenants and Resident's Association and a member of the Wombwell Tenants and Residents Association.

(iii) Mark Hooton

Mr Hooton has expertise in energy efficiency and sustainable housing.

3. The next steps

3.1 Co-opting these individuals on to the Committee would have clear advantages. To begin with, it would mean that Overview & Scrutiny was assisted by individuals who had already made a proven contribution to the scrutiny process. It would also enable the Committee to now focus on its work programme, rather than have to carry out a potentially time consuming recruitment exercise, during the middle period of the municipal year.

3.2 In the longer term, however, a new recruitment and selection process for co-opted members to serve on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be required. It is recommended that the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Governance) be authorised to draw up this revised process, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

4. Performance Reporting

4.1 One of the key roles of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is to monitor the performance of the Council and its partners. The appointment of the suggested co-opted members will help the Committee to do this more effectively.

5. Local Area Implications

5.1 There are no implications for any local areas within the report

6. Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 The recommendations in the report do not interfere with the Convention Rights and are in accordance with the Human Rights 1998.

7. Promoting Equality and Diversity and Social Inclusion

7.1 The revised recruitment and selection process for co-opted members will be based on equality and diversity and social inclusion best practice.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of the report

9. Employee Implication

9.1 There are no direct employee implications arising out of the report.

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