

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

3 December 2021

Refresh of non-statutory, non-voting Overview and Scrutiny Co-optees



Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To make members aware of the arrangements for the refresh of the non-statutory, non-voting co-optees who are appointed to serve on the five thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Executive summary

- 2 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH, S&S, E&E, ESC and C&YPs) excluding the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) can appoint up to two non-voting, non-statutory co-optees. These co-optees bring specialist knowledge and an element of external challenge to the Overview and Scrutiny process.
- 3 Non-statutory, non-voting co-optees are appointed in accordance with a protocol which stipulates the arrangements for the promotion of vacancies, application, interview and appointment process to be followed. The current serving co-optees were appointed in accordance with the requirements of the protocol in May 2018 for two years.
- 4 This term of appointment was extended by COSMB in June 2020 for a further two years as in accordance with the protocol on the understanding that a full refresh of co-optees would be undertaken in 2022.
- 5 The term of appointment of currently serving co-optees will conclude in May 2022 and therefore arrangements in accordance with the protocol need to be put in place to ensure that the non-statutory, non-voting co-optees are appointed to the five thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees before the start of June 2022.

- 6 It is therefore timely that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receive detail of the arrangements for the promotion of the vacancies and appointment process for non-statutory, non-voting co-optees in accordance with the relevant protocol attached as Appendix 2.

Recommendation

- 7 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are recommended to:
 - (a) Note the arrangements for the promotion of the non-statutory, non-voting co-optee vacancies and the appointment process in accordance with the relevant appointment protocol attached as Appendix 2.

Background

- 8 Each of the five thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees (AWH, S&S, E&E, ESC and C&YPs) excluding the COSMB can appoint up to two non-statutory, non-voting co-optees. The Co-optees bring specialist knowledge and an element of external challenge to the Overview and Scrutiny process.
- 9 The co-optees are appointed in accordance with the protocol which stipulates the arrangements for the promotion of vacancies, application, interview and appointment process to be followed. In relation to the current serving co-optees they were all appointed in 2018 with the exception of one of the co-optees on the AWH OSC who was appointed in 2020 on the understanding that a full refresh of all non-statutory, non-voting co-optees was to be undertaken in 2022.
- 10 In relation to the promotion of the vacancies these are publicised using the Area Action Partnerships, DCC website and via social media. This has resulted in the past with a significant number of applications for the ten co-optee positions. There is also a pool of names of previously unsuccessful applicants which are contacted and made aware of the refresh giving them the opportunity to participate in the refresh process should they wish to do so. In addition, currently serving co-optees can re-apply, should they wish to do so, in accordance with the protocol.
- 11 It is proposed that the refresh will be publicised in January, February and early March with completed applicants required to be returned to Overview and Scrutiny by the 11 March allowing time for consideration and shortlisting prior to the interviews being held in May 2022.
- 12 All selected applicants will be invited for a formal interview with the interview panel comprising of the Chair and Vice-chair of COSMB, the

Chair and Vice-chair of the appropriate scrutiny committee together with a member from that committee, previously this member has been from outside the main administration of the authority together with the Overview and Scrutiny officer who supports that committee. The Chair of COSMB has the casting vote.

- 13 Non-statutory, non-voting co-optees will be appointed for a term of two years with an option for a further two-year appointment extension, in order to keep continuity of expertise, subject to the agreement of COSMB as in accordance with the protocol.
- 14 Any serving non-statutory, non-voting co-optees who wished to resign after the two-year initial appointment can do so. It is proposed that any resulting vacancies in 2022-2024 would be publicised via the AAPs, the Council's website and social media with any subsequent appointments made by the formal interview process in accordance with the attached protocol.

Conclusions

- 15 Overview and Scrutiny Members will be aware of the various arrangements for the refresh of Non-statutory, non-voting co-optees.

Background papers

- Protocol for the co-option of non-statutory, non-voting scrutiny members (Appendix 2).

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable