

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

16 June 2015



Recruitment of Non-voting co-optee for Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report informs members of a non-voting co-optee vacancy that has arisen for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and proposes a way forward to appoint to the said vacancy.

Background

- 2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed proposals at its meeting held on 25 March 2014 to review the Council's Overview and Scrutiny co-optee arrangements and recruit to 10 vacancies across 5 Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 3 The appointment of co-optees by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees has been a feature of the Council's scrutiny process since 2000 and is welcomed by Councillors as a positive means by which the Council and its Overview and Scrutiny Committees can engage local people, community organisations and key partners in the decision making process, bringing openness and transparency to the Council's decision making process.

Non-voting co-optee vacancy – Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4 Following the election of Councillor Ted Henderson to Durham County Council's Barnard Castle West division, a vacancy has arisen for the non-voting co-optee position on the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee previously filled by Councillor Henderson.
- 5 An approach has also been made to the Council by a previous co-optee to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee asking that they be considered for any potential vacancies that may arise. The person concerned held a co-optee position on the Committee for a number of years, took part in a number of co-optee development sessions and contributed greatly to the work of the Committee.

- 6 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has previously agreed that any appointment to a non-voting co-optee position would be by way of formal application and interview process involving the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and each respective Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a minority party member and the Head of Planning and Performance as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.
- 7 Accordingly, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider inviting the previous co-opted member to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit an application for the vacancy that has arisen and upon receipt of that application, invite him to attend an interview with the appropriate members and officers.

Recommendations

- 8 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to note the vacancy that has arisen for a non-voting co-optee to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agree to the proposal within paragraph 7 of this report to fill the aforementioned vacancy.

Background papers

Report of Assistant Chief Executive to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Review of Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements – 25 March 2014

Contact: Stephen Gwilym, Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 03000 268140 E-Mail – stephen.gwilym@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – The appointment of non-voting co-optees to Overview and Scrutiny Committees was established in the Local Government Act 2000. The County Council's Constitution and Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules set out the process for the appointment of non-voting co-optees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.