

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 25 February 2021



Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2 February 2021

Subject: Co-option of Independent Member to Stronger Communities Select Committee

Chairman: Councillor M Sartin

Recommending:

(1) That Mr Wyn Marshall be appointed as a non-voting co-opted member of the Stronger Communities Select Committee until the end of the 2021/22 municipal year.

1. Mr Wyn Marshall is currently the Chairman of the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum. The Forum represents the views of the tenant's associations and acts as a consultative body for the Council on a range of housing issues. It is particularly important that tenants have a voice at this level especially in relation to the publication of the Social Housing White paper.
2. At the last meeting of the Stronger Communities Select Committee on 14 January 2021, the Chairman informed the Committee that a request for Mr Marshall to become a co-opted member of the Committee had been made by officers, who strongly supported this. It would ensure that tenants opinions and input would be considered in relation to Housing issues scrutinised by this Select Committee.
3. The Council's Constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is entitled (Article 6) to recommend to the Council the appointment of appropriate persons as non-voting co-optees on select committees.
4. Furthermore, the current Members' Allowances Scheme provides for the application of an annual allowance of £500.00 for co-opted independent members of an overview and scrutiny committee.
5. At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 February 2021, members also supported this proposal and agreed to recommended to Council that Mr Marshall's appointment to the Stronger Communities Select Committee, be approved.
6. As Mr Marshall's appointment was close to the end of this municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also recommended to Council that this should continue until the end of 2021/22 when it could be reviewed.
7. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.