

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 28 January 2020



Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Committees - Co-option of Members

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That the Committee consider a draft protocol for the co-option of non-elected members to the Council's overview and scrutiny committees; and**
- (2) That, subject to Recommendation (1) above, the draft protocol be referred to the Constitution Working Group for consideration.**

1. At its meeting on 19 November 2019, the Committee noted the current arrangements for the co-option of independent members to the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.
2. At that time, the Committee also requested that a report be made to a future meeting with regard to proposals for the adoption of a formal protocol for the co-option of members to the overview and scrutiny committees.
3. A draft protocol in this regard is attached as Appendix 1 to this report, for consideration by the Committee.
4. As the Council's current arrangements for the co-option of non-elected members to the overview and scrutiny committees are enshrined within Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Constitution, it is suggested that subject to its agreement by the Committee, the draft protocol should also be referred to the Constitution Working Group for consideration.
5. The Committee is reminded that the Members' Allowances Scheme for the current municipal year provides for the application of an annual allowance of £500.00 for co-opted independent members of an overview and scrutiny committee. Any proposals for revision to this element of the Scheme would be required to be considered by the independent advisory Remuneration Panel, whose views on which the Council would be required to pay regard.

Resource Implications:

Any significant increase in the number of members co-opted to the Council's overview and scrutiny committees, would be likely to have an effect on the current and future level of budget provision for members allowances.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Local Government Action 2000 confers power on the Council to co-opt non-voting members to membership of its overview and scrutiny committees.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The draft protocol for the co-option of members to the overview and scrutiny committees has been developed at the request of the Committee.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's Constitution (Article 6) sets arrangements for the co-option of independent members to the overview and scrutiny committees.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.