

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 20 August 2015

Title of report: Appointment of Co-optees

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	Not applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	David Smith 12.8.15
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	Yes
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	Yes
Cabinet member portfolio	n/a

Electoral [wards](#) affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public / Private report: Public

1. Purpose of report

1.1 Following a recruitment event, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) intended to use it's next scheduled meeting on 7 September to formally appoint new Scrutiny Co-optees to the pool of co-optees that can be used for committee and panel work. The OSMC will also consider the effective use of co-optees within current scrutiny structures.

However, as an additional meeting has been called to review a Cabinet decision, the appointment has been brought forward. The lay person perspective that is brought to scrutiny work by voluntary scrutiny co-optees has been valued by councillors, officers and Council partners. Co-optees have played an important role in previous call in meetings and it is considered important that continuity is maintained for the additional OSMC call in meeting.

This report seeks to appoint three new co-optees to a co-optee pool for assignment to Committee or Panels as appropriate.

The report further recommends that two co-optees be appointed to the OSMC for the call in meeting on 20 August 2015. It should be noted that for the purposes of this call in meeting, co-optees do not have voting rights.

At the meeting of the OSMC on 7 September, the Committee is recommended to continue to give further consideration to the deployment of co-optees within current scrutiny structures.

2. Key points

2.1 Following agreement by members of the OSMC a recruitment event was held on 20 July for those people who had been placed on a waiting list having previously expressed an interest in being a Scrutiny Co-optee.

Following the exercise the Committee agreed to appoint the following members of the public as co-optees:

- Fatima Khan-Shah - as a statutory Education co-optee for 1 year and thereafter for three years as a voluntary co-optee.
- Robert Walton – as a voluntary co-optee for four year term
- Rosa Vella - as a voluntary co-optee for four year term

A further candidate was offered the chance to undertake the training before the OSMC made a final decision on his appropriateness for the role.

All appointments are subject to signing the code of conduct, completing a programme of training and a successful probationary period.

2.2 The OSMC has taken on the responsibilities previously covered by some Scrutiny standing panels. As previously, it is considered important that a lay perspective is brought to call in discussions. For this reason it is recommended that John Briggs and Fatima Khan- Shah are appointed to the OSMC for the call in meeting on 20 August 2015.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 The proposals within the report recognise the importance of the scrutiny co-optee role and the need to ensure that the valued contribution is effectively maintained in the revised overview and scrutiny arrangements.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has been consulted on the proposals and supports the recommendations.

5. Next steps

A programme of training for new co-optees will be arranged to start in September 2015

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- (1) That the three new co-optees set out in section 2.1 of the report be appointed to the co-optee pool for assignment to Committee or Panels as appropriate.
- (2) That John Briggs and Fatima Khan-Shah be appointed with immediate effect to be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for the meeting on the 20th August 2015
- (3) That, at the meeting of the OSMC on 7 September, the Committee give further consideration to the deployment of co-optees within current scrutiny structures.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not Applicable

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager
Tel: 01484 221000

9. Assistant director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Assistant Director Legal, Governance and Monitoring