

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENTS

5th August 2020

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable Members to make a number of appointments for the current Municipal Year.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) The Committee is requested to consider and appoint representatives, as detailed in the report below.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CHAMPION AND PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY CHAMPION

Scrutiny Champion

In accordance with the scheme run by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, Lancaster City Council currently appoints a Member and Officer to the Scrutiny Champions' Network. The Network supports and encourages all those involved in public scrutiny to become advocates for the role within their own organisations. For the last Municipal Year the Councillor Scrutiny Champion was the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is asked to appoint a Councillor Scrutiny Champion for the new municipal year.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Champion

Regular pre-decision scrutiny meetings are arranged. The Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee, the Budget and Performance Panel and the Pre-Scrutiny Champion are invited to attend to be briefed on forthcoming issues by officers.

This is the process by which members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee become involved with decisions at a stage before the decision is formally taken.

This approach proves beneficial as it:

- ❑ Involves non-executive councillors at the pre-decision stage.
- ❑ Reduces the need for call-ins through developing an understanding of an issue and ensuring that reports for decision adequately reflect different options and approaches.
- ❑ Adds value to reports through wider consultation.

There are many ways in which pre-decision scrutiny can be undertaken and achieved as follows:

- ❑ Examination of the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions.
- ❑ Information obtained arising from discussions with Cabinet Members and Chief Officers.
- ❑ Examination of the Council Plan and budget information.

The role of the Pre-Scrutiny Champion is to take the lead and help develop this process. He/she can:

- ❑ Liaise with Members of Overview and Scrutiny to highlight potential areas for pre-decision scrutiny within their liaison area.
- ❑ Consider and review the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions.
- ❑ Assist other Councillors (including Members of the Committee) to identify pre-scrutiny issues and propose ways in which these can be approached.
- ❑ Provide comments on the structure and functioning of the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions to assist the City Council with its improvement and advancement.

The Committee is asked to appoint a Councillor to undertake the task of Pre-Scrutiny Champion.

1.2 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council meeting, held on Monday, 18th May 2020, considered and approved the basis upon which appointments to various outside bodies, partnerships and boards are made.

Set out below are those which have been agreed by Council as appointments to be made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is asked to consider these appointments.

Organisation	Basis of appointment
Homelessness Forum	1 representative from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Lancaster, Morecambe and District Fairtrade Group	1 representative from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members of outside bodies are entitled to travelling expenses, which are funded from within existing budgets.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources; Information Services; Property; Open Spaces:

None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council dated 18th May 2020.

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Appendix A

Organisation	Information provided to Council
Homelessness Forum	<p>The Homeless Forum usually meets quarterly during the day at one of the Town Halls with the objective of meeting with partner organisations the deliver the action plan developed as part of the homelessness strategy. We are currently undertaking a review of the strategy as it is now out of date. We normally have a least 2 City Council representatives.</p>
Lancaster, Morecambe and District Fairtrade Group	<p>We require one councillor to act as a liaison between the group and the City Council.</p> <p>The group meets, on average, 6 times between September and May when the A.G.M is held.</p> <p>Meetings, at present, are held in St. Thomas's Church Centre, Marton Street, Lancaster LA1 1XX (opposite the Police Station), on a Tuesday at 3.30pm. However, due to planned building work, a new venue may have to be sought and the meeting times may have to change.</p>