

# CABINET

## Allocation of Cabinet Appointments and Consideration of Overview & Scrutiny Referral

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008

### Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To advise of the recommended reallocation of Cabinet responsibility for AONB issues and of a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding a Champion for mental health matters.			
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member/Overview and Scrutiny Committee
			X
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A.		
This report is public.			

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE LEADER

- (1) That Councillor Tony Johnson replaces Councillor Eileen Blamire as the Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility for AONB issues and be appointed as the Council's Representative on the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Unit, and Arnside and Silverdale AONB (Forum, Countryside Management Service and Limestone Heritage Project) and the Forest of Bowland AONB Advisory Committee.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- (2) That Cabinet considers the referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 (minute 6 refers) Cabinet considered a report on Appointments to Committees, Liaison Groups, Outside Bodies, Partnerships and Boards. After considering the report, amongst other things, Cabinet resolved that Councillor Eileen Blamire be appointed as the Cabinet Member Representative for the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Unit, Arnside and Silverdale AONB (Forum, Countryside Management Service and Limestone Heritage Project) and Forest of Bowland AONB Advisory Committee.
- 1.2 As Members will be aware Councillor Tony Johnson has been appointed as the Conservative Group Cabinet Member for the remainder of 2007/08 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation from Cabinet of Councillor Val Histed. At the last meeting the Leader indicated that, in view of the changes in responsibilities, he would

consider amendments to the Portfolios of existing Cabinet Members. The Leader has received a request that Councillor Tony Johnson replaces Councillor Eileen Blamire as Cabinet's Member with Special Responsibility for AONB issues.

- 1.3 Cabinet is also asked to consider a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 12th December 2007, Members received a presentation regarding mental health matters from the Lancashire Care Trust. Following the presentation the Committee recommended that Cabinet be asked to consider appointing a Champion for mental health matters. It was felt that this was a neglected area and by appointing a Champion the Council would be signalling its commitment to the issues and its willingness to work with the Lancashire Care Trust in this District.

## **2.0 Proposal Details**

- 2.1 The Leader has agreed that, after receiving a request and ensuring that both Members were in agreement with the proposal, Councillor Johnson replaces Councillor Eileen Blamire as the Cabinet portfolio holder for AONB responsibilities. Cabinet is asked to approve the consequential appointment of Councillor Johnson to represent Council on any AONB bodies.
- 2.3 Cabinet is also asked to consider the referral from Overview and Scrutiny and appoint a champion for mental health matters, if they feel that this is appropriate.

## **3.0 Details of Consultation**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)**

- 4.1 With regard to the appointment of Cabinet Members as Council representatives it is for Cabinet to approve the replacement of Councillor Eileen Blamire by Councillor Tony Johnson.
- 4.2 It is for Cabinet to consider appointing, or not appointing, a Cabinet Member as champion for mental health matters, in accordance with the referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)**

- 5.1 There are no officer preferred options. However in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendation regarding the appointment of a Champion for mental health matters, Cabinet should be aware that the Council does not focus its services around people's special needs and there would be no identifiable benefit in selecting one particular client group in this way.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the recommended amendments to Cabinet Member appointments.
- 6.2 Members are also asked to consider the appointment of a champion for mental health matters, if they feel that this is appropriate, in order to consider and take forward issues pertaining to this area of responsibility.

**RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Representation on various bodies is part of the City Council's community leadership role.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant financial implications with regard to the recommendations. Resources are available to provide the necessary level of support.

Members of outside bodies are entitled to travel expenses, which will be funded from within the existing members travel budget.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Cabinet Committees and Liaison Groups are established in accordance with the City Council's Constitution. It is for Cabinet to make appointments to outside bodies and organisations as recommended by Council.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of Cabinet dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007.  
Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

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