
Appointment of Independent Member Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)

Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following the review of its democratic structure, the Council decided to introduce provision for two independent members of the public to be appointed to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels. A recruitment process was undertaken and the Council, in February 2010, agreed to appoint six individuals to these roles.
- 1.2 It is the belief that the appointment of Co-opted Members to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels contributes to the promotion of local democracy by -
- ◆ enabling those who have an interest in serving the community to become involved in local democracy;
 - ◆ providing expertise and knowledge on specialist subjects;
 - ◆ enabling people from all parts of the community to become engaged in the local political process; and
 - ◆ introducing local perspectives that are not subject to political influences.

2. NEW APPOINTMENT TO ECONOMIC WELL-BEING PANEL

- 2.1 Following the resignation of a Co-opted Member from the Economic Well-Being Panel, the Council has advertised the vacant position in the local media and on the Council's website. The current co-optees were also asked if they wished to apply for the vacancy.
- 2.2 A Selection Panel comprising Councillors G J Bull, S Greenall and A H Williams was appointed by the Panel to interview applicants for the post and to recommend to the Panel the candidate they considered should be appointed. The Selection Panel is scheduled to meet on 7th November 2012 and their recommendation will be considered by the Economic Well-Being Scrutiny Panel at its meeting the following evening.
- 2.3 To be eligible for co-option, a person must meet the qualifications for election as a Member of a local authority in terms of age, residency or employment and nationality. Co-opted Members are expected to comply with the Council Procedure Rules that apply to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels as set out in the Council's

Constitution. They are also required to complete a declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests.

- 2.4 Co-opted Members are entitled to claim travel and subsistence under the Council's Members Allowance Scheme.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Scheme, a co-option to an Overview and Scrutiny Panel should be made by the Council on the recommendation of the Panel to which the person is to be co-opted.

- 3.2 As interviews for the post of Co-opted Member are to be held after the Agenda for the Council has been despatched, the outcome will be reported at the meeting. It is, therefore

RECOMMENDED

that the Council appoints the candidate proposed by the Selection Panel to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) for a four year term of office.

Contact Officer: C Bulman, Democratic Services Officer
☎ 01480 388234

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Independent Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members file held in Legal and Democratic Services

Huntingdonshire District Council Scheme of Co-Option.

Huntingdonshire District Council Guidance for Independent Members of Overview and Scrutiny Panels.