

3rd June 2019

Appointment of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Purpose of Report

This report

- Requests the Combined Authority determines a preference for an “independent” or “appropriate” Chair of the SCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee and appoint a Chair.
- Notes the Members nominated from the 9 SCR districts to the SCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee. – update when the nominations have been made.
- Notes the requirement to appoint an additional Member(s) to maintain political balance

Thematic Priority

Cross-cutting.

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Under the Freedom of Information Act this paper and any appendices is available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme.

Recommendations

1. That the Combined Authority determines a preference for the appointment of an independent OR appropriate Chair of the SCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee and instructs officers to make provision for this decision in accordance with relevant legislation.
2. Approves the Overview and Scrutiny Committee membership for 2019/20
3. Approves the appointment of a further member(s) to achieve political balance.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As determined by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009; The Cities and Local Devolution Act 2016 and The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 (SI 67) a number of matters are prescribed in respect of the chairing arrangements and membership of the SCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“the OSC”, “the Committee”).

2. Proposal and justification

Committee Chairing Arrangements

- 2.1** The Chair of the Committee can be an “independent” person, or if not, they can be an “appropriate” person.
- 2.2** An “independent” person is someone who is not a sitting councillor of one of the constituent councils, or a close friend or family member of such a person. Such a person may, however, be a member of a registered political party.
- 2.3** The appointment of an independent Chair is predicated on the undertaking of a public recruitment process.
- 2.4** Alternatively, if the Chair is not independent they must be “appropriate”. This means that they may be a sitting councillor but must be representative of a different political party to the Mayor.
- 2.5** It is wholly at the Combined Authority’s discretion whether to pursue the appointment of an “independent” or “appropriate” Chair of the Committee.
- 2.6** However, a person may not be appointed as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if that person is:
- a) A member of the registered political party which has the most representatives among the members of the constituent councils on the Combined Authority, or
 - b) Where two or more parties have the same number of representatives, a member of any of those parties.

For this reason, the possible candidates for Chair are as follows:

- Conservative Member from Doncaster MBC – Cllr Allen Jones
- UKIP Member from Rotherham MBC – Cllr Peter Short
- Liberal Democrat Member from Sheffield CC – Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed
- Liberal Democrat Member from Sheffield CC – Cllr Penny Baker
- Conservative Member from Derbyshire Dales District Council – Cllr Chris Furness (Chair from 2018-19)
- Conservative Member from NE Derbyshire District Council – Nominee not received

SCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee Elected Member Composition for 2019/20

- 2.7** The Combined Authority must appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent councils to an Overview and Scrutiny committee, so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together.
- 2.8** Non-Labour Member appointees are sought initially from the SCR districts with the largest political minorities.

2.9 The Member nominations currently being sought from the constituent and non-constituent districts are as follows:

Barnsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Jeff Ennis (Labour) • Cllr Ken Richardson (Labour) <p>Substitutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Philip Lofts (Labour) • x1 Labour substitute to be appointed
Bassetlaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr John Shephard (Labour) <p>Substitute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Robin Carrington-Wilde (Labour)
Bolsover	1 Labour Member – nominee to be confirmed (nomination expected 23/05/19)
Chesterfield	1 Labour Member – nominee to be confirmed
Derbyshire Dales	1 Conservative Member – nominee to be confirmed
Doncaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Austin White (Labour) • Cllr Allan Jones (Conservative) <p>Substitutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Martin Greenhalgh (Conservative) • Cllr Duncan Anderson (Labour)
North East Derbyshire	1 Conservative Member – nominee to be confirmed (nomination expected 23/05/19)
Rotherham	1 Labour Member – nominee to be confirmed 1 UKIP Member – nominee to be confirmed
Sheffield	<p>2 Labour Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dawn Dale • Cllr Peter Rippon <p>2 Labour Party substitute members to be confirmed</p> <p>2 Liberal Democrat Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Penny Baker • Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed <p>2 Liberal Democrat Substitute Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ian Auckland • Cllr Colin Ross

2.10 The requirement for the Committee to maintain political proportionality is actively monitored. Required changes to membership composition to meet this requirement will be actioned accordingly.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 None

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

None.

As per Article 9D of the SCR Constitution, no remuneration shall be payable by the Authority to members of any committee established by it other than allowances for travel and subsistence

4.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications in these areas arising from this report.

4.3 Risk Management

There are no direct risk implications in these areas arising from this report.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

There are no direct implications in these areas arising from this report.

5. Communications

5.1 There are no communication requirements.

6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 There are no appendices or annexes to this report.

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, S11 2BQ