



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 6 JUNE 2006

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Co-opting individuals to support the work of the Commission

RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider co-opting individuals with specific knowledge or expertise to support the work of the Commission during the current municipal year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Commissions are entitled to co-opt individuals with relevant skills or expertise to assist them with their work. These are appointed by the Full Council on recommendation from the Commission provided that the total number of Councillors on the respective Commission is greater than the number of co-optees. With the exception of the five statutory co-optees relating to the Local Education Authority education function, co-opted members are not given voting rights.
- 2.2 General guidance on co-option agreed by the Scrutiny Management Commission in 2002 states that the Commissions should consider if the individuals proposed for co-option have the right knowledge and/or expertise in the functions for which the Commission is responsible. The co-option should be politically neutral and be for a specific period, specific meetings or specific items.
- 2.3 A number of Commissions have in the past co-opted individuals, including the former Social Care & Health and Education Commissions. Varying purposes have included:
 - specific knowledge or expertise held by an individual that could assist the Commission with complex items
 - partnership links that enable stakeholder views to be routinely fed into the scrutiny process
 - community links that have broadened the inclusiveness of the scrutiny process

and in each case introducing an independent element.

- 2.4 Members are therefore asked to consider co-opting non-voting members to support the Commission with its overview and scrutiny function. This new Commission, with 11 elected councillors and 5 voting statutory added members, will need to balance the possible advantages that co-optees may bring with the need to avoid becoming over wieldy.

- 2.5 If the Commission do wish to co-opt and were to agree name(s) at this meeting it would allow ratification to be sought at the 19 July full Council meeting.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Co-opted members are entitled to the same travel and subsistence allowances as elected Members, in terms of attending meetings and associated Council business. This cost will have to be met from the 2006/07 Overview and Scrutiny budget.

Legal

2. The Council's Procedure Rules on co-option are in-line with Government Guidance issued in respect of the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2003 confirm the powers for co-option.

Personnel

3. None arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

4. Effective Overview and Scrutiny will be of benefit to all Derby people.

Corporate Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with all the Council's priorities for 2006-09.