



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 statutory co-optees relating to the Local Education Authority education function, co-opted members cannot be 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 with specific knowledge or expertise to assist them in their work, including the former Culture & Prosperity and Community Regeneration Commissions.
- 2.4 Members are therefore asked to consider co-opting non-voting members to support the Commission with its overview and scrutiny function, particularly for complex items where input from an individual with specific knowledge or expertise would be helpful in the scrutiny process.
- 2.5 The most appropriate time to consider co-option would be when the Commission has decided upon its workplan for the year.

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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.

Co-option 06-07