

CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP

Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To review the Committee's co-opted membership.

Financial Implications

2. There may be some financial implications arising from claims for travel, subsistence and dependent carer's allowances.

Background

3. Scrutiny Committees have a statutory power to co-opt people who are not Members of the Council to participate in their work. Co-option implies regular attendance at meetings as a matter of course and is only one means of engaging partners and stakeholders. The Council's Standing Orders also provide for the Scrutiny Committees to invite public participation in their meetings and work and receive information, evidence and presentations from internal experts and other witnesses, as the nature of its enquiries require.
4. This Committee reviewed its approach to co-option in June 2006. The Committee agreed that the Committee should strengthen its formal links with the Alliance of Voluntary Sector Organisations in Health and Social Care in Herefordshire (the Alliance).
5. The Alliance indicated that it would like to nominate someone from its Board of Directors who would attend meetings of this Committee with a remit to speak on behalf of the Alliance as a whole, with a proviso that the Board could nominate a substitute to attend if the nominated person is for some reason unavailable.
6. In accordance with the Council's constitution any Members co-opted onto this Committee have the right to speak but not to vote.
7. The Committee agreed that a formal representative of the Alliance as a whole be co-opted and that participation in the Committee's work otherwise be invited as the nature of its enquiries required. The Alliance subsequently nominated a representative to serve on the Committee.
8. No term of office was specified at that time. It seems timely, however, following the elections, for the Committee to confirm the approach to co-option it wishes to adopt.
9. It is also proposed as a general approach to co-option now and in the future, that where a representative body is invited to make a nomination to this Committee the term of office should be at the relevant organisation's discretion. However, to ensure

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on 01432 260239

a consistent approach the relevant organisation should be asked as a minimum to confirm their nomination after the four-yearly elections to this Council.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT (a) the Committee confirms that it wishes to co-opt a formal representative of the Alliance as a whole;

and

(b) the term of office of the nominee should be at the relevant organisation's discretion, subject to the nomination being reconfirmed after the four-yearly elections to this Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None