

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 dependant 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 2003. The Committee agreed that the Committee should have formal links with the Chamber of Commerce, Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, Herefordshire National Farmers Union and the Tourism Sector. Voluntary Sector representation was considered at this time but no appointments were made.
5. In accordance with the Council's constitution any Members co-opted onto this Committee have the right to speak but not to vote.
6. 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.
7. 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 a consistent approach the relevant organisation should be asked as a minimum to confirm their nomination after the four-yearly elections to this Council.
8. In addition to the Committee's Co-opted Members the Committee also has a group of private businesses and voluntary organisations who act as advisors to the Committee. A list of these advisors is attached at Appendix 1. These advisors are not invited to each and every meeting of the Committee as co-opted members are but will attend as and when issues of interest arise.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Craig Goodall, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260445

RECOMMENDATIONS

- THAT (a) the Committee confirms whether it wishes to continue with the practice of appointing co-opted members;
- (b) if the Committee decides to continue with the practice of appointing co-opted members it confirms which organisations will be invited to propose members;
- (c) 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;
- and;
- (d) the Committee confirms whether it wishes to continue with the practice of holding a list of advisors.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Appendix 1 - List of Committee Advisors

NAME	Company
Gareth Anderson	Sales Manager, Polytec, Holden Ltd
Mark Pearce	Advantage West Midlands
Richard Maxfield	Retail Director, Sun Valley Foods Ltd
Mark Ellis	Managing Director, M&M Sports Ltd
Debbie Gittoes	Arctic Circle Ltd
Richard Grainger	Brightwells Auctioneers
Alun Bond	Artservice
David Moyser	Chief Executive, Visit Heart of England
Bobbie Heavens	Association for the Promotion of Visit Herefordshire
	Hereford Market Auctioneers
Phillippa Money	Herefordshire Voluntary Action