

## LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK - OBSERVER

Report By: Democratic Services Manager

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider inviting a representative of the Local Involvement Network to attend meetings of the Committee as an observer.

### 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 2007. The Committee agreed a formal representative of the Alliance of Voluntary Sector Organisations in Health and Social Care in Herefordshire be co-opted onto the Committee and that the term of office of the nominee be at the relevant organisation's discretion, subject to the nomination being reconfirmed after the four-yearly elections to this Council.

### Issues

5. A request has recently been received from the Local Involvement Network to send a representative to meetings of this Committee on the same basis that it sends an observer to meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee.
6. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) were introduced to help strengthen the system that enables communities to influence local health and care services. Their role includes: providing everyone in the community - from individuals to voluntary groups, with the chance to say what they think about local health and social care services, giving people the chance to influence how services are planned and run and feeding back to services what people have said about services so that things can be improved.
7. The Health Scrutiny Committee agreed in April 2008 to ensure a strong working relationship with the LINK it be invited to nominate up to two representatives to attend

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

and contribute to meetings of the Committee. These representatives are invited to attend as observers rather than being formally co-opted onto the Scrutiny Committee. They have a right to speak at the Chairman's discretion but not to vote.

8. It is proposed that the LINK be invited to nominate representatives to contribute to meetings of this Committee on the same basis as they contribute to meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee.
9. It would be a matter for the LINK to determine nomination(s) to this Committee. The LINK could nominate a substitute to attend if the nominee were unavailable. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT (a) the Local Involvement Network be invited to nominate up to two representatives to attend and contribute to meetings of the Committee;**

**and**

**(b) the term of office of the nominee (s) 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