

**Report to:** Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 29 May 2009

**Subject:** Review of Co-opted Membership 2009/10

**Report of:** The Service Director – Borough Solicitor

**Contact officer:** Michael Williamson 01942 827123

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**Purpose / summary:** To review the Co-opted Membership of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee.

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** n/a

**Recommendation / decision:**

- 1) Committee is requested to agree on the organisations, if any, it feels are appropriate to be co-opted on to the Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/10.
- 2) Committee is requested to delegate authority to the Service Director – Borough Solicitor to seek nominations from the agreed list of co-opted organisations.
- 3) Committee agrees that the nominations received are submitted to full Council in order to be formally co-opted to the Scrutiny Committee.

**Key Decision:** This report does not involve a key decision.

**Risks / Implications:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Financial:  | Reimbursement of travelling expenses incurred |
| Staffing:   | n/a   |
| Policy:   | n/a   |
| Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted? | n/a   |
| Wards affected:   | n/a   |

**Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?**

No

**If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?**

**Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

**Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Executive Director Business Support Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

\* delete which applicable

**For Cabinet reports only :**

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Categorisation of the report:       | <b>x</b> |
|                                     |          |
| Discussion leading to a decision    |          |
| Monitoring                          |          |
| Sharing for corporate understanding |          |

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
|             | <b>x</b> |
|             |          |
| Discussion  |          |
| Decision    |          |
| Information |          |

**Tracking/Process:**

|       | Consultation        | Ward Members | Partners     |
|-------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
|       |                     |              |              |
| Panel | Overview & Scrutiny | Cabinet      | Council      |
|       |                     |              | 15 July 2009 |

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer K Lawson

Date 19 May 2009

## Background

On 4 March 2009 the Council considered a report regarding the review of Advisory Panels and Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees and resolved to approve the following proposals (minute 73 refers):

- Disestablish the five Advisory Panels and the four Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee;
- Change the name of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee;
- Establish four Scrutiny Committees to mirror the four thematic and delivery partnerships of the Local Strategic Partnership (Wigan Borough Partnership) as follows:
  - Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee;
  - Adult, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
  - Building Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee
  - Economy, Environment, Culture and Housing Scrutiny Committee

A number of organisations had representatives previously co-opted onto the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the five Advisory Panels. As part of the above decision, the council resolved:-

“adopting OPTION B in paragraph 26 of the report in relation to arrangements for Co-Opted Members, that is, that each of the Scrutiny Committees should consider whether it is still appropriate to have permanent Co-opted Members on their Scrutiny Committees.”

The Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee has effectively replaced the Children and Young People Services Advisory Panel. Previously, the following organisations had been co-opted on to the Advisory Panel:-

- 2 x Teacher Union representatives (non-statutory co-opted members)
- Borough Partnership representative (non-statutory co-opted member)
  
- Roman Catholic Church representative (statutory co-opted member)
- Church of England representative (statutory co-opted member)
- Methodist/Free Church representative (statutory co-opted member)
- 3 x Parent Governor representatives (statutory co-opted members)

The appointment to the statutory Co-opted Member posts will be considered at Annual Council on 20 May 2009.

In considering non-statutory co-options, Members should have regard to the new role of the Scrutiny Committee and whether co-option is the most appropriate form of relationship with those non-statutory organisations previously Co-opted to the Children and Young People's Advisory Panel. The Scrutiny Committees are able to involve other organisations in their work by a variety of means other than co-option and, in particular, should avoid co-opting representatives of those organisations whose performance they may have a role in scrutinising. This does not in any way detract from the important need to build and maintain strong working relationships between the Scrutiny Committees and the council's partners.

## **Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Committee is:-

- requested to agree on the organisations, if any, it feels are appropriate to be co-opted on to the Committee for then Municipal Year 2009/10;
- delegate authority to the Service Director – Borough Solicitor to seek nominations from the agreed list of co-opted organisations; and
- agree that the nominations received are submitted to full Council in order to be formally co-opted to the Scrutiny Committee.