

23 July, 2012

West Midlands Police Authority Co-opted Member

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Z. Ali – Public Protection

Report:

On 1 April 2009 the Police and Justice Act 2006 was enacted which created a requirement for all local authorities operating executive arrangements to have an overview and scrutiny committee that was responsible for considering crime and disorder issues. On 23 May 2012, Council awarded this remit to the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel (CSESPP).

The regulations enacting the Police and Justice Act 2006 (as amended) created the provision for crime and disorder scrutiny committees to co-opt outside representatives.

Since the introduction of these power the Panel has successfully co-opted a Member from West Midlands Police Authority. Therefore the CSESPP resolved at its meeting on 18 June 2012 to again co-opted a West Midland Police Authority member onto the CSESPP for 2012/13.

West Midlands Police Authority have nominated Mr Philip Holmes JP to be the Authorities co-opted member on the Panel up until 22 November 2012. After this date the Police Authority will cease to exist due to the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands.

Next Steps

In order to formally appoint Mr Holmes JP it is necessary for the CSSEPP to make a recommendation to Council concerning the appointment as all appointments to committees are reserved for full Council.

The Councils Constitution allows for the appointment of non-voting co-opted members only (except in the case of statutory education co-opted members on the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny and Performance Panel). Therefore it is recommended that all co-opted member appointments to the CSSPP be on a non-voting basis in line with the provisions contained within the Constitution.


The legislation allows restrictions to the membership of crime and disorder co-opted members, for example: on crime and disorder issues only. In the case of the statutory education co-opted members on the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny and Performance Panel they are only entitled to vote on education matters but are entitled to stay and speak to any other matter being considered by the Panel. As it is recommended that crime and disorder co-opted members be non-voting members there is no compelling reason to restrict their membership, however, Members may wish to consider restricting membership to crime and disorder matters only.


Recommendations:

That subject to any comments Members may wish to make, Mr Phillip Holmes JP, be recommended to Council to become a non-voting co-opted member on the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel until 22 November 2012.

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