

## **Report to Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfield Area Panel**

### **Special Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**

#### **Co-opted Members**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfied Area Panel requested guidance regarding the co-opting of members of the public onto the Panel.

##### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Area Panels were established by Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013 as part of a wider report on 'Devolution through Area Partnerships'. Within the wider report, a section set out a provision to identify co-opted members which would then be subject to agreement by Council.
- 2.2 During September 2015 a report entitled 'Public Participation' was submitted to all Area Panels by the Head of Democratic Services setting out suggestions for a way forward in order to encourage greater public involvement in the work of Area Panels and guidance around co-opted membership for the duration of the respective municipal year, subject to approval by Council.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, the Panel resolved that:-
- i) Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfied Area Panel introduce a public forum to take place at the commencement of the panel meeting subject to the Chair's discretion
  - ii) each Area Panel has the discretion to appoint one co-opted Member per Ward, subject to Council approval
  - iii) Mr Barry Poxon be nominated for the remainder of the municipal year subject to Council approval

The Area Panel's nomination was approved at Council on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 for the remainder of the 2015/16 municipal year.

### 3.0 **Co-options to Panels**

- 3.1 Panels can co-opt members of the public at any time during the municipal year for the duration of that municipal year, subject to approval by Council. In order that co-opted members can take their seats at the beginning of the new municipal year, an item be placed on each Area Panel agenda at the last meeting of the municipal year so that appointments can be made at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 Members are reminded that Area Panels are formal committees of the Council and as such are bound by the Council's Constitution in the way in which they proceed. Co-opted members are bound by the Members' Code of Conduct in the same way as elected Members and will be required to sign a declaration of interest form in line with the requirement placed on elected members.
- 3.3 Co-opted members can speak on any matter but do not have a vote.
- 3.4 At meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016, a request was made to appoint Mr. Barry Poxon as a co-opted member for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year.

### 4.0 **Recommendations**

- 4.1 i. that Mr. Barry Poxon be nominated as a co-opted member for the remainder of the municipal year subject to Council approval
- ii. That Members note the content of the report

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