



Council – 12 September 2005

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Special Time Limited Health Scrutiny Panel.

Summary of report

This report advises Council of the need to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair under the Overview and Scrutiny Rules. Council is advised to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to the time limited health scrutiny panel established by the Council on 4 July 2005.

The committee membership as agreed by the Council is attached and the Chair and Vice Chair must be appointed from the members.

Recommendations

- (1) Council appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to the panel.

Background information

On 4 July 2005 the Council resolved to establish a time limited Scrutiny and Performance Panel (the Panel) to consider proposals for the future delivery of hospital services in the Borough. Council required notification of the names of Councillors who were to form that Panel to be submitted by 15 July 2005. Since membership was not known at that time the Panel could not appoint a Chair or Vice Chair pursuant to Rule 7, Scrutiny and Performance Procedure Rules.

This Panel met for the first time on 23 August. At this first meeting, members of the Panel were informed of the need to elect a Chair. The Panel were advised that it had the choice to appoint a Chair either for that meeting or for the life time of the Panel, if it were the latter, any decision of the Panel was subject to a Council appointment and that any decision of the Panel did not fetter the discretion of Council. The Panel elected Councillor Bird to be Chair and Councillor Robertson as Vice Chair.

A further meeting of the Panel was scheduled for 31 August, prior to this Council meeting.

Future issues for Council

It is now clear that legislative requirements will require this Council to work together with other local authorities affected by the merger proposals. Wolverhampton and Dudley Councils may need to establish a joint overview and scrutiny panel to scrutinise the

merger proposals. Therefore it considered that the role and responsibilities of the Panel established on 4 July will become immersed within a joint panel of all these Councils.

Officers from the three authorities are meeting in early September to consider a way forward for the potential establishment of a joint scrutiny panel and prepare a draft terms of reference. The terms of reference, together with the appointments to the committee and proportionality, will need to be agreed by all respective Councils together with other procedural steps i.e. procedure rules and appointment of Chair and Vice Chair. A further report will be brought to Council when greater details are known about the proposals for the merger and a consensus has been reached on a joint way forward.

However, this will not remove from the Councils Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel the need to consult local residents about any proposal and reach a Council view on how any proposal impacts on Walsall residents.

Signed:

Chief Executive:

Date:

Special Time Limited Health Scrutiny Panel Membership List

Councillor	Party	Ward
Arif	Conservative	St. Matthew's
Bird	Conservative	Pheasey Park Farm
Clarke	Conservative	Streetly
D.Pitt	Conservative	Bloxwich West
Walker	Conservative	Rushall Shelfield
Robertson	Labour	Blakenall
Robinson	Labour	Blakenall
Wilkes	Labour	Darlaston South
Woodruff	Liberal Democrat	Willenhall North