

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 August 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

For decision

1 PROPOSED SCHEME OF CO-OPTION

To suggest a revised scheme of co-option to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Following discussions at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 20th June 2019, it was resolved that a formal scheme regarding the co-option of members to the Committee be brought forward. It was noted that the recently published Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny recommended such a scheme to help determine how individuals and organisations might assist with the scrutiny process.
- 1.1.2 Members will recall that a full annual programme of scrutiny reviews was put forward and agreed at the June meeting for the remainder of this municipal year. The wide range of topics to be considered by the Committee would suggest that a new approach to co-option should now be introduced.
- 1.1.3 Over the coming year, it would be valuable for the Committee to hear evidence and advice from a range of experts relevant to the issue being reviewed, both to assist discussions at the Committee and to better inform the formulation of any final recommendations. This approach would be particularly relevant for issues being reviewed that fall outside of the Council's normal remit.

1.2 The Proposed Scheme of Co-Option

1.2.1 The following arrangements are suggested:

- (a) That at the initial 'scoping stage' of each Scrutiny review being undertaken, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to agree if:

- any co-option of external participants is considered necessary for that review, and
 - if any co-option is needed, who might be most appropriate individual or organisation to invite to assist with that review.
- (b) That there is a maximum of 3 external co-optees for any one review taking place.
- (c) That any co-optees assisting the review are able to give their views on the matter under consideration but have no formal voting rights.
- (d) That any co-optees assisting the review would, where appropriate, be invited to review a final draft prior to its formal consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.3 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.3.1 That the Borough Council's proposed Scheme of Co-Option, as set out above, **BE ENDORSED.**

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive