

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Individual Executive Decision Notice
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Vice Chair appointments to Our Council
Scrutiny Panel and Stronger City Economy
Scrutiny Panel

Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Wards affected	(All Wards);	
Accountable Director	David Pattison, Director of Governance	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	Julia Cleary Tel Email	Systems and Scrutiny Manager 01902 555046 julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Summary

To approve the nomination from the Conservative Group to fill its vacancy on the Our Council Scrutiny Panel and the nomination to fill the subsequent vacancy on the Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel.

Recommendations for decision:

That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Governance:

1. Approve the appointment of Councillor Udey Singh as Vice Chair of Our Council Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/2021.
2. Approve the appointment of Councillor Christopher Haynes as Vice Chair of Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/2021.

Signature
Date:

Signature
Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The composition of the Our Council Scrutiny Panel as approved at the meeting of Annual Council on 15 May 2019, provides for 12 elected members of the Council (nine Labour and three Conservative). The role of Vice Chair of the Panel has become vacant following the departure of Jane Stevenson after her election as a Member of Parliament.
- 1.2 The composition of the Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel as approved at the meeting of Annual Council on 15 May 2019, provides for 12 elected members of the Council (nine Labour and three Conservative). Following the appointment of Councillor Udey Singh as Vice Chair of Our Council Scrutiny Panel, a vacancy will be created for Vice Chair of Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 2.1 The alternative option to the proposed recommendation would be to not fill the Vice Chair vacancy. This will result in the Our Council Scrutiny Panel not having a Vice Chair and hinder the decision-making process.
- 2.2 This would also prevent the Conservative Group from taking up its allocation of seats on the Panels.

3.0 Reasons for decision

- 3.1 This decision will ensure that the Council's vacancy for a Vice Chair on the Our Council Scrutiny Panel and the subsequent vacancy for a Vice Chair on the Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel are filled.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The post of Vice Chair of a Scrutiny Panel attracts an annual Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,500. This is funded from the existing £972,000 budget set aside for all Councillor allowances within Democratic Services. [GE/04092020/T]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 requires Local Authorities to appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with relevant powers of review and scrutiny and section 9FA provides the authority to appoint sub-committees.
- 5.2 Section 2FA(3) of the same act further specifies that members of the executive cannot sit on the Scrutiny Panel.
- 5.3 Sections 15 & 16 and Schedule 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 impose a duty on Local Authorities to allocate seats on committees according to the general political representation of the Council and to give effect to this allocation unless a specific political group fails to express its wishes within the required time period

(regulation 15 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990).

- 5.4 The Local Government Act 2000 s2FA(11) also requires Local Authorities to have regard to guidance as and when published.
- 5.5 The latest Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in May 2019. Chapter 4 is dedicated to the selection of Committee Members and reiterate the proportionality requirements as well as the expertise, commitment and ability to act impartially of the whole group.
- 5.6 In accordance with the Constitution Individual Cabinet Members are empowered to make Individual Executive Decisions in respect of their area of responsibility, subject to consultation with the appropriate senior officer (director or head of service) and provided the decision does not fall within one of the exceptions listed in the Constitution. The Leader of the Council has lead responsibility to agree permanent membership changes to Cabinet Panels, Regulatory or other Committees, Area Committees and Forums and the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels, in between annual meetings of the Council. The recommendations proposed in this report do not fall within the list of exemptions that would require that the matter be considered collectively by Cabinet. [RP/15062020/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

7.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

9.0 Corporate Landlord implications

- 10.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

10.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

11.0 Covid Implications

11.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 None.