



# Doncaster Council

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Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**To the Chair and Members of the Council**

**Membership and Chairing Arrangements – Overview and Scrutiny Communities and Environment Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Following the resignation of Councillor Barwell as an elected Member on 10<sup>th</sup> February, Council is asked to appoint to the following resultant vacancies on Overview and Scrutiny Committees:
  - appointing a Member to a vacancy on the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (CEO&SP)
  - appointing a Chair of the (CEO&SP); and
  - appointing to the vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC).

## **EXEMPT REPORT**

2. This report is not exempt

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. To appoint a Member from the Labour Group to the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
4. To appoint a Chair of the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, from its revised membership.
5. To appoint the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Communities and Environment Panel to the vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

6. Ensuring effective elected Member representation on Overview and Scrutiny will support the Council's Governance and decision-making processes.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. Following the resignation of Councillor Barwell from the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 a vacancy now exists on the CEO&SP, OSMC and Planning Committee. Council agreed at its Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 that reviews on the proportional allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees, be limited to the Annual Meeting and if appropriate, a mid-point in the year (November). As an appointment to the current vacancy on the Planning Committee would require a review of the Council's proportionality, filling this vacancy cannot be undertaken at this point but will be reviewed, along with the membership of all committees, at the next Annual General Meeting in May 2022.
8. Council has previously agreed to disapply proportionality to OSMC and the standing Panels, as this provides an opportunity for a greater number of seats to be offered to those Members who are not in the Majority Group. This means there is more flexibility in reviewing the membership of OSMC and the standing Panels in year. As the seats are not allocated in proportion to the political make up of the Council but agreed on a group basis, the seat vacated by Councillor Barwell is therefore deemed a Labour seat and the Labour Group is requested to put forward a nomination to fill this vacancy. A current list of the C&E Panel membership is attached at Appendix A for Member's information.
9. To ensure the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee effectively manages and co-ordinates the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels it is recommended that the Members appointed as Chairs of the standing scrutiny Panels are also appointed as Members to the OSMC. To continue this best practice principle Council is asked to consider appointing the newly elected Chair to the vacancy on OSMC. For information, the Vice Chair of a standing Overview and Scrutiny Panel may substitute for the Chair at a meeting of OSMC if they are unable to attend.
10. In accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 the Council is required to designate one of its Scrutiny Committees with responsibility for reviewing the local crime and disorder reduction partnership (the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP)). This is undertaken at least on an Annual basis by the CEO&SP and for the purpose of this meeting the Panel is referred to as the Communities and Environment Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Panel . This Panel last met on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The newly appointed Member and Chair would undertake their respective role(s) on this Panel if it was required to meet again during this municipal year.
11. Council also agreed at its Annual Meeting that any Member appointed as Chair of a Committee or Panel is required to undertake Chair's training. This can be provided shortly after the appointments are made, if required.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

12. Not to appoint to the vacancies on Overview and Scrutiny – This would mean that both the CEO&SP and OSMC would be operating under capacity until membership and Chairs and Vice Chairs were reviewed at Annual Council in May 2022.

13. Appointing to these vacancies provides the capacity within Overview and Scrutiny to complete the year with a full compliment of Members and to start considering issues for consideration as part of next year's work programme.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

14.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li><li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li><li>• Inward Investment</li></ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li><li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li><li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li><li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li><li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li></ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li><li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li><li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li></ul>	

	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>Ensuring the membership of the Council's Committee's is in place to effectively discharge its responsibilities will ensure that the Council is able to contribute to the delivery of all of the Council's Key Priorities. In particular, these arrangements will assist the Council in working with our partners to provide strong leadership and governance</p>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 15/2/22]

16. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, set out the duties of the Local Authority in relation to the allocation of seats to Political Groups on Committees to ensure political balance. Section 17 1(b) provides that the proportional allocation of seats to Committees can be disapplied if no Member of Council votes against such a proposal. Council agreed at its Annual Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 that proportionality would be disapplied to OSMC and the standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
17. In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 3b, not all Chairs and Vice-Chairs are to be drawn from the same Political Group. The current compliment of Chairs and Vice Chairs currently contains cross party representation and therefore any appointment to the Chair of the C&E Panel is not affected by this requirement.
18. The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires that each local authority should establish a committee to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions not less than once in every

twelve month period. The Council has designated this function to the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel. In appointing to the vacancies on the CEO&SP the respective Member(s) would also act as the Chair and Member(s) of this Panel.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 15.02.22..]**

19. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Chair of the Communities and Environment Panel of £3,304 and is contained within the Member Services budget 2021/22.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RH Date 15.02.22.]**

20. There are no significant Human Resource Implications

#### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 15.02.22..]**

21. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report. Governance and Member Services will be responsible for updating the membership and chairing arrangements for the relevant panels and committees in the Civica Modern.Gov system.

#### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS..Date 15.02.22]**

22. There are no direct health implications from this report. However, the individual Committees all contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Doncaster people and reducing health inequalities. Committee Members can seek further advice from the Director of Public Health if required.

#### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials AS Date 15.02.22..]**

23. There are no specific Equality Implications associated with this report

#### **CONSULTATION**

24. No specific consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

25. Report to Council 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 - Local Government And Housing Act 1989  
- Review Of The Allocation Of Seats On Committees And Sub-Committees

#### **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CEO&SP – Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
OSMC – Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee  
Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP)

#### **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL AND COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT CRIME & DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **Chair**

Vacancy

#### **Vice Chair**

Cllr Nigel Cannings

#### **Members:**

Cllr James Church

Cllr Gemma Cobby

Cllr Julie Grace

Cllr Deborah Hutchinson

Cllr Emma Muddiman – Rawlins

Cllr Glynis Smith

Cllr Gary Stapleton

Invitees (Work Force Representative)

Mr Jim Board