

11. MEMBER APPOINTMENT – VACANCY ON PLANNING COMMITTEE (RC)

1. Purpose of the report

To make an appointment to a vacancy on the Planning Committee.

Key Issues

- **A vacancy has occurred on the Planning Committee due to the resignation of a Member from the Authority.**
- **The vacancy will be held until the annual Authority meeting in July 2022 if it is not filled.**

2. Recommendation

- 1. To appoint Cllr V Priestley to the current vacancy on the Planning Committee until the annual Authority meeting in July 2022.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The Environment Act 1995 requires that membership of the Authority's Committees should as far as possible reflect the makeup of the membership of the Authority. This means that each Committee should, in most cases, have a majority of Local Authority appointed Members over the Members appointed by the Secretary of State, which includes Parish Members. There are a few exceptions where due to rounding up and rounding down the numbers from each category are equal.

Background Information

4. Members are appointed to the Standing Committees (Planning Committee and Programmes and Resources Committee) at the annual Authority meeting in July each year. The appointments are made following a request for expressions of interest by the Appointments Panel and in accordance with Standing Order 1.40. These appointments are made until the following annual meeting. However, from time to time vacancies can occur and in this instance a vacancy has occurred on the Planning Committee due to a Parish Member resigning their position on the Authority.
5. As the vacancy has occurred due to the loss of a Parish Member the usual continuity cannot be applied in this instance, whereby in accordance with Standing Order 1.42 (2) when a Member ceases to be a Member during their current term of office any vacancies arising on Committees are filled by the Member's successor. As this vacancy is left by a Parish Member the process for a bye-election to appoint a new Parish Member is currently being started and will not be completed until mid-June. Therefore the current vacancy would last until the annual meeting in July.
6. However, in anticipation of the annual request for expressions of interest for Committee places, Cllr V Priestley, who is a Secretary of State appointed Parish Member, has expressed an interest in being on the Planning Committee instead of the Programmes and Resources Committee. Both the Chair of Planning Committee and the Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee are supportive of this request and for Cllr Priestley to be appointed to the Planning Committee from now until the annual meeting in July. This would fill the vacancy on the Planning Committee and the appointments to the Programmes and Resources Committee would still be in accordance with Standing Order 1.40.

Proposals

7. To appoint Cllr V Priestley to the current vacancy on the Planning Committee until the annual Authority meeting in July 2022.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

8. Members may claim travel and subsistence for attendance at duties relating to the appointments made and these costs are included in the annual budget so the appointment does not incur any additional cost to the Authority.

Risk Management:

9. No issues to highlight.

Sustainability:

10. No issues to highlight.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

11. No issues to highlight.

12. Climate Change

No issues to highlight.

13. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

14. Appendices

None.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Ruth Crowder, Democratic Services Manager, 10 March 2022.