

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 June 2018

### APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE SCRUTINY BODIES (REP1806)

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report asks the Committee to make its annual appointments of scrutiny representatives onto the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee and the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Both scrutiny bodies address issues relating to the whole of Suffolk, including Waveney.
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<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Alison Cackett Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
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<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Chrissie Roberts Democratic Services Officer (01502) 523614 <a href="mailto:chrissie.roberts@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">chrissie.roberts@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Each year the Council is required to make appointments to external bodies in order to ensure that the Council is able to contribute towards discussions that could impact upon Waveney, as well as the whole of Suffolk and adjoining local authority areas.
- 1.2 The majority of Council appointments are made at the Annual Council Meeting or at the first Cabinet Meeting of the new Municipal Year.
- 1.3 Following the Annual Council meeting held on 16 May 2018, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been tasked with appointing representatives onto external strategic scrutiny bodies for Suffolk.

## **2 EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES**

- 2.1 There are currently two external scrutiny bodies within Suffolk, each of which requires a representative and a named substitute as follows:
  - The Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee
  - The Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee
- 2.2 The Member of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2017/18 was Councillor Light, with Councillor Patience as substitute.
- 2.3 The Member of the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18 was Councillor Murray, with Councillor Light as substitute.

## **4. FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The establishment of Overview & Scrutiny Committees arose from the Local Government Act 2000. Joint scrutiny committees allow strategic issues to be considered on a cross-county basis.
- 4.2 Both of these external scrutiny bodies will be supported by scrutiny officers from Suffolk County Council.
- 4.3 Those Members formally appointed to these external scrutiny bodies as the Council's representatives will be able to claim expenses in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.
- 4.4 Flooding and flood risk are significant environmental issues that require a joint approach with other local authorities and partners. It is important that this Council has a voice regarding flood risk issues and is able to input into the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee's discussions.
- 4.5 The Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee will consider public health issues and access to health services as part of any specific health scrutiny review.
- 4.6 Both of these external scrutiny bodies are made up of representatives from Suffolk County Council and all Suffolk District and Borough Councils to ensure a strategic approach which allows input on local issues. Each body will work with key partners on any reviews including the relevant health bodies and the Environment Agency, and so will be able to work with and influence decisions made by these organisations for the benefit of all communities across Suffolk.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 As both joint scrutiny bodies undertake scrutiny functions, appointment to them was referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the Annual Council meeting held on 16 May 2018.

## **6. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Members could choose not to appoint to these external scrutiny bodies. This option should be rejected on the basis that the Council needs to take a proactive role in the scrutiny of external organisations and initiatives.

## **7. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 To ensure that the Council is represented on external scrutiny bodies and is able to contribute towards discussions that could impact on Waveney, as well as the whole of Suffolk and adjoining local authority areas.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That **ONE** representative and **ONE** substitute be appointed to serve on the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.
2. That **ONE** representative and **ONE** substitute be appointed to serve on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None