

## Membership of Committees – Appointment of New Councillors to Scrutiny Committee

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## Purpose of the Report

1. To confirm amendments to the Scrutiny Committee membership following the appointment of Councillors to various committees and working groups at Council on 21st May 2019.

## Public Interest

2. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020.

Regulation 4 states:-

### *Meetings of local authorities*

- 4.—(1) *In respect of a reference in any enactment to a meeting of a local authority, that authority may, as they may determine—*
  - (a) *hold such meetings and at such hour and on such days; and*
  - (b) *alter the frequency, move or cancel such meetings, without requirement for further notice.*
- (2) *Where an appointment would otherwise be made or require to be made at an annual meeting of a local authority, such appointment continues until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine.*
3. This allows appointments normally made at an annual meeting to be continued until the next annual meeting or until such time as the authority determines. Councils therefore have the option to hold annual meetings remotely or in person when the restrictions are lifted or to go through to the next meeting in 2021.
4. For the continued safety of Councillors and staff, it was agreed to postpone the SSDC Annual Council meeting until such time as it is safe to call a meeting in person again. However due to two resignations and some changes in political party, there is a need to appoint new members to this Committee.



## **South Somerset District Council Recommendations**

5. In accordance with Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated, the Council confirm that:-
  - a) Councillors Louise Clark and Oliver Patrick be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee
  - b) Councillor Linda Vijeh be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee

### **Background**

6. Each year at their annual meeting, Council agree to appoint Councillors to the various committees and to represent SSDC on outside organisations. This report confirms the wishes of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups to make amendments to the Councillors appointed to the Scrutiny Committee.

### **Report Detail**

7. The membership of committees and working groups for 2019/20 was approved at the Annual Council meeting on 21st May 2019. Since then Councillors Mike Stanton and Rob Stickland have indicated that they wish to step down from the Scrutiny Committee and there have also been some changes in political party. The Scrutiny Committee is in political balance and the current political composition is 9 Lib Dem, 4 Cons and 1 Independent Member. Members are asked to confirm the appointment of three new Councillors to the Committee.

### **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications to the recommendations of this report.

### **Background Papers**

Minutes of Council – 21st May 2019, 20th June 2019, 18th July 2019, 19th September 2019, 19th December 2019, February 2020.